

(Weston Hill End!) Tel: 722711

The long wait for NHS treatment

THE GEM report on February 25 outlining the difficulty that a Mrs Swain of Cowbridge was having in waiting to see an NHS consultant, was bound to be jumped on by political opponents of the Welsh Assembly Government, and a large part of me has to agree with their sentiments.

I am not sure what advantage would be gained if the public knew all the facts regarding hospital appointments – especially in the case of Mrs Swain, who appears not to be receiving any satisfaction.

Telling the public how it is, is not a policy that any front line party in power would adhere to – if it were not positive and in their favour.

In 2005, the Assembly Government promised that within the next period of five years, they would bring down the waiting time after being referred by a doctor to a

consultant and then receiving treatment to 26 weeks.

I considered this to be very reasonable, as probably if that target was achieved, a further reduction of waiting time could be expected over the next five years.

It means that after 18 weeks of waiting, she still has another eight weeks to see a consultant and have treatment. Only time will tell if that treatment is realised.

I object to politicians of all parties who make promises, yet fail to advise the public at regular intervals how their policies are progressing.

The NHS has only so many area hospitals and staff. If there are not enough, then the public should be told and the necessary costs should be obtained to right those problems, even if other areas of the running of the country suffer.

If that is not acceptable, we simply have to put up with it!

Jim Newborne, Cowbridge

Call to a local centre reunion

MAY 1, through the medium of your newspaper, try to make contact with former pupils, trainees and staff who attended the former occupation and training centre, or later the Maes-y-Coed school.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the building in Gladstone Road, Barry.

On Saturday, May 1 at 2pm onwards, cour-

tesy of the Mencap Society, I will be at their hall in Court Road, Barry, where I would love to see again my old friends – including anyone who has ever had an association with the health department/education department, Social Services; also staff at the hostel Gladstone Road (Margaret, Kathleen, and Pam May).

My email address is: barbarallewann@googlemail.com; my phone number in France is: 0033 561 686 091; my UK mobile phone number is: 078 551 954 44. **Barbara Milhuisen (Jenkins)**

WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS?

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Readers' Letters

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'All they have to do is decline...' 'COUNCILLORS DO NOT HAVE TO ACCEPT RISE'

I WAS astonished and appalled to read in The GEM on March 11 that Vale councillors are to accept a 4 per cent rise when the vast majority of Vale residents (and indeed, the rest of Wales and the UK) are having to make do with pay freezes and or cuts to their

incomes.

We all have to make larger payments for council tax, water, etc, out of the same income, yet Vale councillors think it appropriate to accept a recommendation by an independent review body of a whopping 4 per cent increase ... nice work being a councillor, if you can get it!

For a council spokesperson to simply quote a decision taken

"some time ago" to go along with the review body's recommendations, is not appropriate in the current economic climate – that was then, this is now!

Neighbouring councillors in Neath, Port Talbot and Swansea have rejected the increases as they want to show sympathy and understanding with their residents.

All the councillors have to do is simply get

together and pass a motion to decline the increase; they don't have to accept it!

Come on, Vale councillors, show us you are aware of the financial plight that affects your residents, the people that actually pay you – and refuse this inflation-busting hike in your allowances.

Karl Clark, Cowbridge

Tourism plans are laughable

I READ the recent comments made by Plaid Cymru candidate Dr Johnson about the Vale's policies for the Knap and have to wholeheartedly agree.

Having lived in the area since 1983, it is a huge surprise to me that so little has been done to generate any sort of tourism strategy for Barry Island of the Knap.

The laughable attempts to re-establish the boating lake as a tourist attraction are yet another example of the half-baked thinking of

the council. To expect a couple of steel containers to entice would-be boaters speaks for itself.

The swimming pool will, I am certain, reconstitute itself, given sufficient rainfall.

Was this a plan drawn up on the back of a cigarette packet while somebody was waiting for their computer to reboot?

The area has a huge amount going for it. It is sadly disappointing that the same can't be said for council officials, who clearly lack the necessary foresight or creative thinking to put it back on the tourist map.

Robert Taylor, Barry

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 25)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
18 Thur	07.48	9.7	20.12	9.5
19 Fri	08.18	9.4	20.33	9.3
20 Sat	08.49	9.2	21.06	9.1
21 Sun	09.26	8.8	21.39	8.7
22 Mon	10.04	8.5	22.24	8.3
23 Tues	10.49	7.9	23.27	7.8
24 Wed			12.16	7.6
25 Thur	01.02	7.5	14.01	7.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Foul play by a dog owner?

I LIVE in Coopers Lane, Cowbridge and try very hard to keep my tiny front garden attractive for both myself and passers-by.

Somebody is bringing their dog through here each morning and allowing it to foul my garden,

even kicking over my wood chippings to try and disguise it.

It was a particularly large mess this morning which I had to clear up. I'm sure dog fouling is illegal in public places.

I suppose this person thinks they are avoiding fines by using someone's private property; how selfish.

Diana Lewis

'Support the plan for Vale Heritage Centre'

YOUR readers will have seen the recent article by Dr Jonathan Hicks about the possibility of establishing a Heritage Centre for the Vale of Glamorgan.

On behalf of the Cowbridge and District Local History Society, I have been attending the meetings of a coalition of history societies, historians and others concerned with the Vale's heritage.

There is strong support for this scheme from all parts of the Vale. It is seen as being an opportunity to act as a force that could help unify a recently-established administrative area through a consideration of the history, archaeology and histori-

cal geography of an ancient geographical region.

The coalition has assembled a powerful set of arguments for the establishment of such a centre in Barry where funds from a variety of sources, including section 106 and regeneration money may be available.

The case is to be presented to the scrutiny committee of the Vale council on March 23 at 6pm at the Council Offices in Barry.

Perhaps our local elected representatives might be encouraged to give their backing. Indeed, can I urge anyone who has an interest in these matters to attend and give their support to this worthwhile venture? **Dick Buswell, (Chair, Cowbridge and District Local History Society)**

USEFUL VALE INFORMATION

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)

COASTGUARD 01792 366534

FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188

HELPLINES

Alcohol and drugs:

Drinkline 0800 9178282

National Drugs Helpline 0800 776600

DASH 01656 650686

SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families 01656 785435

RAF Association Welfare Officer

01495 249522/01446 740522

SAMARITANS (emotional support)

01656 662333

VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755

MENTAL DISTRESS

(Mental Health Matters) 01656 767045

Mental Health Helpline:

Freephone 0800 132 737

MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan

01446 730792 or www.mindinthevale.org.uk

CHILDLINE 0800 1111 -

www.childline.org.uk

Rape Crisis Centre 08451 221331.

RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.

AIDS helplines 0800 567123.

Child abuse – NSPCC 0800 800 5000.

Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 769755.

Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.

Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.

Vale Victim & Witness Support -

Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's

SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

CITIZENS' ADVICE

At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Drop in Mon-Fri (not Weds) 9.30am - 4.30am (Wed 11am-6pm); at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road 9.30am - 11.30am Mon and Fri. Telephone advice 0845 120 3756. Further information www.adviceguide.org.uk

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999. Gas - Gas emergency number 0800 111999.

Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130.

Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 700111. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline, 01446 700111.

To report a fly tipping incident - 01446 700111.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.

For Out Of Hours Chemists, call the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board on 02920 350600, or NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

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Esther makes the most of her 60-second trolley dash!



THE GEM, BRO Radio and Waitrose, Barry trolley-dash took place last Friday, and Esther Cousins from Buttrills, Barry, managed to collect more than £526 worth of goods in her trolley in just 60 seconds!

LEFT: Esther Cousins with her family, friends and BRO Radio presenters.

Her name was pulled out of the hat and an "absolutely delighted" Esther brought her three children to encourage her, while BRO Radio presenters, Waitrose staff and fellow shoppers urged her on.

Esther concentrated her dash on cooking utensils, toiletries and Easter eggs and was "shocked" at the amount she managed to collect.

BRO Radio broadcast live from Waitrose during the day and station manager Steve Powell said: "We have been building up the excitement on air since the competition began and received more than 200 entries. We are delighted with the response and look forward to our next trolley-dash."

"Esther was fantastic, so full of energy, and tackled her trolley-dash with great enthusiasm - £526 isn't bad for a Friday evening shop and I would like to thank Glamorgan GEM readers for entering. Please look out for some more great competitions from BRO Radio and The GEM."

Life sentence for Barry car dealer

A BARRY second-hand car dealer, who stabbed a man twice through the heart, was given a life sentence at Cardiff Crown Court last Thursday (March 11).

John Chivers (30) was charged with murdering Paul Michael Jones (41), a married father of three.

Chivers had told the jury: "I didn't deliberately plunge that knife into him."

He added: "I didn't intend causing him seri-

ous injury and I didn't intend to kill him".

Prosecutor Michael Chambers had told the jury the two men were involved in a dispute outside the home of Chivers' girlfriend,

Dominique Fitzgerald in Columbus Close, Barry and seconds after obtaining a carving knife from

her kitchen, he stabbed Mr Jones twice.

But the jury did not believe the defendant's version of events and found him guilty of murder.

Chivers was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum 18-year jail term.

Time running out for the Test Centre

BARRY Driving Test Centre looks as if it will close in eight days time, unless there is a dramatic 11th-hour reprieve.

The Driving Standards Agency has said it will close its doors in Barry on March 26, with Vale learners and driving instructors having to go to alternative centres in Bridgend or Cardiff.

Local councillor, Chris Elmore, made clear his regret at the prospect of the closure of the

Dock View Road facility. He explained: "It is disappointing that the DSA are not properly listening to our concerns or actively considering the suitable alternative sites in the town on offer."

"Closing the test centre will be the wrong decision for learners, instructors and remove a valued service from the town."

The DSA says that the centres in Bridgend and Cardiff are within the "travel distance criterion applicable to the area", and can absorb the demand from Barry.

Atlantic College lifeboat responds to rescue call

STUDENTS at Atlantic College were called out yesterday (Wednesday) to rescue a man, after the engine on his boat failed and he ran aground on a sand-bank.

The call came when the RNLI lifeboat was out on an exercise, and they were diverted to help the boat.

A college spokeswoman said: "During his rescue, he mentioned how cold he was and so, fearing hypothermia, both the Chivenor rescue helicopter and an ambulance were called to the scene."

"When he was brought to the shore, he was found to be well and returned home with his wife."

She continued: "The gentleman had no emergency equipment on board his small craft - only a mobile tele-

phone."

In their latest statistics review, the RNLI says that machinery failure has been the main reason the services of volunteer RNLI crews have been called upon.

Lifeboats in the West Division have launched to 272 incidents of this nature in 2009, a 23 per cent increase on last year.

Atlantic College Lifeboat Station has been part of the Royal

National Lifeboat Institution since 1982 and is crewed by teachers and students working together.

Within the college some 12 students volunteer for the inshore lifeboat service each year.

The current boat is an Atlantic 75 Colin James Daniel.

The original Atlantic lifeboat was actually designed at Atlantic College.

Julie and Julia BIG SCREEN's next presentation is Julie and Julia (Cert 12A) which will be shown on Thursday, March 25, at 7.30pm in Cowbridge Town Hall.

Doors open at 7.10pm. Tickets £3 (available in advance from the town clerk's office, or on the door).




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Calling old Comrades!

FORMER members of the Royal Regiment of Wales (RRW) are attempting to form a Royal Welsh Regiment Comrades Association in the Vale.

The Vale has hundreds of ex-members of the Welch Regt, South Wales Borderers, RRW, RWF, and now The Royal Welsh Regiment, but does not have a Comrades association.

A meeting will be held at 8pm on Thursday March 25 at the Tynwydd Arms, Barry. All former and serving members, either Regular or TA, are welcome to attend and become members of the association.

E-Mail vogcomrades@hotmail.co.uk for further information.

The Soroptimists clean-up work gets grant boost



The attached photo shows members of the club with rubbish they collected and the litter pickers they had purchased and used for the first time.

MEMBERS of Soroptimist International Barry and District were given a £450 grant boost from Keep Wales Tidy – to purchase equipment for the beach clean and survey they carry out every quarter at Jackson's Bay, Barry Island.

It is being used to buy litter pickers, protective gloves and bag openers.

The cash support for community groups is funded by the Assembly's local environmental quality fund,

and can be used by volunteer groups to help cover the costs of insurance, tools, equipment, publicity, and training.

Another concern for the Soroptimists has been insurance. Retrieving litter from the beach is a dirty business and accidents do happen, but this is another problem the Soroptimists no longer have to worry about as they have recently secured free insurance cover from Keep Wales Tidy.

This insurance scheme is also funded by the Welsh Assembly Government's local environmental quality department, and groups under-

taking practical environmental projects, such as litter-picking, are able to benefit.

Members carried out their first survey of the year in March and although the beach looked lovely on a beautiful spring morning, over 8 kilos of rubbish was still collected, including cotton wool bud sticks, plastic bottles, numerous plastic and polystyrene pieces, a barbecue brick, and even discarded socks!

Every item picked up was documented, and the results will be sent to the Maritime Conservation Society.

CSD

Three seater not flytipped: just a children's seating area!

RIGHT: Children who live near Coed Criafol thought an old settee would make a nice seating area for them – the council removed it on Monday.

RESIDENTS in Pencoedtre Village, Barry could have been forgiven for thinking that a three-seater settee appearing in the park bordering Coed Criafol was another example of flytipping.

Not so, said the Vale Council.

A spokesman explained what had happened. "Acting on reports, the council



removed the settee on Monday this week, and an investigation revealed that the item had been dragged to the park by children for use as a seating area.

"As such, it has not been investigated as a fly tipping incident."

CHILDREN LOVED LUCY'S BOOK TALK



RIGHT: Lucy Owen with Sully pupils.

TV presenter, Lucy Owen, recently visited Sully Primary School, and the Wales & West Housing Association to hand out books to celebrate 'Give a Book Week' organised by the Welsh Books Council, as part of a campaign to

encourage people from across Wales to share the gift of reading with family and friends.

She took a morning assembly at the school, to talk about children's books and describe her favourite titles.

Llancarfan pupils show their green credentials!



ABOVE: Some of the pupils who met the Yellow Pages challenge.

LLANCARFAN Primary School is celebrating being placed second in this year's local council-run recycling initiative to collect Yellow Pages.

Over 47 schools participated in the scheme to collect Yellow Pages and Christmas cards for recycling and to help reduce landfill in the Vale.

Llancarfan pupils received a gift card worth

£100 for their efforts after a fantastic number of Yellow Pages were collected - an average of 3.3 per child, reported acting headteacher, Huw Lewis.

"I am proud to say that Llancarfan pupils have once again risen to the challenge and as a school we are always keen to support environmental campaigns such as these. The school eco-committee will help decide how best to spend the prize money," he added.

Golfers chip in with £2,300 for Lifeboat appeal



LEFT: Club captain, Russel Burge, presenting the cheque at the golf club's St David's Day dinner.

S T U A R T MCMILLAN, chairman of the Barry Dock Lifeboat, and his wife Margaret, a member of the fundraising team in Barry, were recently invited to attend a St David's Day dinner at Creigiau Golf Club.

They were presented with a cheque for £2,300 by club captain, Mr Russel

Burge (whose chosen charity for the year was the Royal National Lifeboat Institution).

Mr McMillan said the superb sum was raised as a result of the club's fundraising efforts in 2009.

It will be used by the Barry Dock Lifeboat to support its ongoing service, Saving Lives at Sea.

Kindness of helpers thanked

ON Tuesday morning, March 2, my wife and I were walking around Barry market in Kings Square when my wife slipped and fell down the steps in front of the Town Hall.

I would like to thank the ladies and gentlemen and the stall holder who came to her aid, also the lady who rang for the ambulance and the lady who nursed her while waiting for it to arrive.

My wife is fine now, but their assistance during a very difficult time was very much appreciated.

It shows there are people always willing to help when needed. Trevor and Lorraine Evans, Rhooose

Mike and Mick's bridge success

THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club are as follows:

Tuesday, February 23.

First were Mike Close and Mick Green with 64.58 per cent, with Irene Thomas and Graham Jones (64.06) in second place.

Joint third were Alan Jones and Lyn Matthews, and Noelle Bond and Joan Jenkins with 52.60.

Irene and Graham won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information ring 01446 733425.

The problem is from without...

ANYONE who has lived locally for any length of time will welcome the realignment of Five Mile Lane, but if St Athan College gets the go-ahead, which many hope not, how is this going to be of any help?

In 2007, a road was promised from the M4. If Five Mile Lane is altered it still means traffic to this site will be via St Nicholas or the 4050 at Wenvoe/through Barry to Weycock Cross.

Anything going to this site from the west has to go through the bottleneck of Llyswnorwy.

During its construction, it will bring material from all over the country.

Afterwards, I understand despite the promise by our MP asserting thousands of pounds being spent on new cars, public transport is to be encouraged by limited parking.

As mentioned in The GEM, Coun Gwyn John thinks the new houses are the thin edge of the wedge.

It is not what is planned inside the wire that people need to worry about, it's what will go on outside that will industrialise our county. Vicky Way, Picketston

The Gibbonsdown and Court Communities First "Helping Hand Event"

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'THE SOUND OF SILENCE'

Lydia's poignant memories of the Llandow air disaster

"THE sound of the plane woke me up – it was no different to normal – I looked out of the window and it was on the ground, and there was just silence."

That is how Mrs Lydia Davies remembers the Llandow air disaster which occurred 60 years ago and claimed the lives of 75 Welsh rugby supporters returning from Ireland, along with five of the crew.

At the time Lydia was

a young woman of 20, who lived with her parents Evan and Olwen, sister Betty and brother Bryn at Park Farm, Singingstone.

The farm was just 100 yards from where the Avro Tudor V aircraft crashed as it headed for Llandow Aerodrome – there were only three survivors. Two stumbled to the farm.

Lydia, who lives in nearby Llanblethian today, recalled the strange silence on that Sunday afternoon, March 12, 1950, as she looked across at the plane's wreckage.

"I used to go to sleep on Sunday afternoons before I'd go to milk the cows.

"The sound of the plane woke me up – it was no different to normal – I looked out of the window and it was on the ground, and there was just silence. It was so quiet.

"Two of the survivors came clambering over the garden hedge.

"They didn't have shoes on and got caught on the thorns.

"My mum and dad ran out to greet them. My mother bathed their

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

wounds and we made them a cup of tea – fortunately, they weren't in too bad a way.

"One of them was a teacher, and we met them both again a few months later when an outdoor memorial service was held at Singingstone.

"At the time it was the world's worst aviation disaster.

"My sister Betty was a Sunday School teacher in Llysowney and while cycling back through the country lanes, a man told her, 'You don't know what you are going to see along there', and it really unnerved her.

"I didn't go to the site of the crash on that day, but on the following day we carried cups of tea to the people who were working there.

"On the day of the crash, I do remember that the emergency services were up from St Athan in no time."

One treasured memento to that Lydia has held onto is a letter of thanks that one of the survivors wrote to her parents just four weeks after the event.

It reads:

April 10, 1950

Dear Mr Thomas and family,

I should like to thank you on behalf of my brother-in-law and myself for the extreme kindness you showed to us on the afternoon of the terrible air crash which occurred near your farm.

You will no doubt be interested to learn that we are both on the road to recovery and I hope to resume my school duties after the Easter holidays.

Thank you for your kindness and concern.

Yours faithfully,

D Gwynne Anthony.

The three survivors were Mr Anthony, Mr Handel Rogers of the Welsh Rugby Union, and Mr Meville Thomas, who at 85, is the only living survivor of the crash and lives in Llanharan.

The aircraft had approached the aerodrome at low altitude, rose steeply, stalled, and then crashed into the field yards from the farm. There was no



The memorial at Singingstone to the 80 people who died on March 12, 1950.

explosion.

Lydia added: "As a thank you for what my parents did that day, the survivors sent my mother and father international tickets every year."

Conservative regional Assembly Member Andrew RT Davies, who lives not far from the crash site, said: "The Vale is now home to many aviation establishments, both at Cardiff Airport and in St Athan.

This disaster led to many safety improvements, which helped to safeguard the future of air travel.

"It is important that

this event is not forgotten and that measures are taken to ensure that tragedies like this are never repeated."

As thousands of Welsh rugby fans made their way across to Dublin for the Ireland v Wales international last weekend, many of them will have spared a thought, on the 60th anniversary of the disaster, for those that lost their lives.

A memorial stone stands in the hamlet of Singingstone to ensure that events of March 12, 1950 are never forgotten.

Kidney Wales Walk for Life

SUNDAY March 28 will be the 5th year the Taylor family have organised the Kidney Wales Barry Walk for Life, starting from Morrisons car park.

We do so because of the efforts made by Kidney Wales to improve services for all patients with kidney problems but mainly because of their work towards the organ donor card and register.

Many of you already know about my son, Richard Taylor donating his organs after his tragic death in 2004. Then, on the morning of the 2006 Walk for Life, my husband John Taylor died of a heart attack.

Although he was unable to donate his organs, he was able to donate some of his tissues.

As a result, the Taylor family support and organise the Barry Walk for Life as an annual

tribute to John and to Richard.

We repeated last year's successful fundraising boost by holding a pre-walk quiz night at the Park Hotel, Barry on Friday March 12. It was a fun night and a perfect opportunity to collect sponsor forms.

We raised £215, which will go to the final total for the Walk for Life. Many thanks to everyone who donated prizes and helped make the evening so successful.

This year, registration will start at 11am for a circular two-mile route, starting and ending at Morrison's car park and going along Broad Street, The Parade, Romilly Park Road and back.

We need as many of you there as possible to make 2010 the best fundraising year so far!

For sponsor forms please telephone 01446 744834 (after 6pm).

Gaynor Taylor, Barry

TORY SURGERY

DAVID MELDING, Conservative Assembly Member for the South Wales Central Region, will be holding an advice surgery on Friday, March 19 at 29 High Street, Barry, between 10am-11.30am.

No appointments are necessary and all are welcome to attend.

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Sheek Kebab	£2.40
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Mugh-Chat-Puree	£3.25
Jhinga Til Bhaja	£4.25
Chicken Pakora	£2.70
Mixed Tandoori	£2.90
Lamb Samosa	£1.80
Machli Kebab	£2.75
Chicken Chaat	£2.70
Royal Platter - For Two	£5.75
Chicken Pakora, Sheek Kebab, Onion Bhajis & Samosas	

APPETISERS - VEGETARIAN

Served with fresh salad and mint sauce

Aloo chups (V)	£1.95
Samosa (V)	£1.80
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Comprising Aloo chups, Paneer Pakora, Samosas & Onion Bhajis	

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Maharaja Bhuna	£5.95
Murgh Handi Lazeez (N)	£5.95

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Prepared in an Indian Wok style with fresh garlic, ginger and tomatoes in a spicy aromatic sauce.

Balti Chicken or Lamb	£4.95
Balti Chicken Tikka	£5.50
Balti King Prawns	£7.50
Baltis with extras of your choice, please add 60p; Mushrooms/Spinach/ Mixed Vegetables/Potatoes	

CHEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS

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Chicken or Lamb Jhalfrizi (V)	£5.50
Chicken or Lamb Pasanda (N)	£5.75
Murgh Makhani (N)	£5.75
Laal Maas (V)	£5.95
Nizami Handi	£5.95

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Chicken Biryani	£5.75
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Lamb Biryani £5.75 || Tandoori Chicken Biryani | £6.75 |
Vegetable Biryani (V)	£4.75
Maharaja Biryani	£7.50
Laziza Biryani	£6.95

VEGETARIAN

Balti Vegetables (V)	£3.95
Milmi Sabzi Handi (V)	£3.95
Subzi Masala (N) (V)	£4.25
Subzi Paneer Jalfrezi (V) (V)	£4.50
Paneer Pasanda (N) (V)	£4.50

TANDOORI DISHES

Served with fresh salad and mint sauce

Tandoori Chicken (half)	£5.50
Tandoori Duck	£5.95
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Cheese or Garlic Naan	£1.75
Keema Naan	£1.75
Tandoori Roti	£1.25
Paratha	£1.90
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Papadom	45p
Mixed Raitha	£1.25
Fresh mixed salad	£1.25
Chutney or Pickle	60p

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Royal Platter, Maharaja Bhuna, Chicken Tikka Masala, Pilau Rice, Naan, Mushroom Bhajee, Pappadoms & Chutney

For 2 £21.00
For 4 £38.00

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This offer is not valid in conjunction with other offers.

MEAL FOR 2

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2 Main Dishes (up to value of £5.95)
2 Pulao Rice
1 Plain Nan Bread
1 Side Dish
2 Papadoms
1 Onion Salad
1 Mango Chutney

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Why Vale needs a heritage centre

YOUR recent headline – 'Was King Arthur a Llantwit boy?' raises a number of interesting points: as the article points out, a character, shrouded in the myths of time, such as Arthur, could be claimed by nearly every community in the British Isles.

But how about doing more with what we have already got in the Vale?

There are local initiatives in Llantwit Major and Cowbridge in the form of a small heritage centre and a museum.

There are plans to display the crosses in St Illtud's Church more effectively in the Galilee project. However, if the area is to attract visitors

through its heritage and historical importance, it requires a more active and co-ordinated approach to tell a story which encompasses the whole Vale – and be of a size which would appeal to visitors seeking more than "Doctor Who" and "Gavin and Stacey."

That is why the proposal for a Vale Heritage Centre in Barry deserves the support of communities throughout the area, by putting into context the stories of towns such as Llantwit, Cowbridge, Penarth and Barry, who are able to document their heritage, alongside places such as Llancarfan and St Hilary, who cannot. **Nigel Williams, Llantwit Major**

'Let the people buy the pleasure park'

THE announcement of £9 million investment in the future of Barry is welcome news (The GEM, March 4).

Some of the money is to be spent on "reviving and enhancing tourism", so I hope that the regeneration of Barry Island Pleasure Park is top of the list.

With the right investment and management, the pleasure park could

be an all-weather, all-year round leisure and tourist attraction.

The people of Barry should be given the opportunity to buy the park, redevelop it and run it.

That would be an investment in the engine of the tourist economy which would keep giving back for years to come.

Andrew Bailey, Rhosce

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM IS NOT YET READY FOR US!

WE live in a time where our government encourages us to use public transport by increasing the costs for ownership of vehicles, with the aim of making us all greener.

Three months ago, I gave up the second family car, which was more of a financial decision than a green one.

However, a part of me did feel good that I was contributing in some way to a cleaner environment for my five-year-old son, who will in fact be a new generation with awareness of a cleaner culture.

I work in Cardiff and catch the Bridgend to Aberdare train from Llantwit Major to Queen Street each day.

My experience of the past three months as a customer with Arriva trains is that the trains

have been cancelled four times, terminated on route once, having to change trains at Cardiff central four times and many times have just been late.

I am very fortunate that with my employment as a production engineer, I am able to be flexible with my time, so if I am late due to Arriva's delays, or just not turning up, I can work off the time in other hours.

The majority of employers monitor staff in turning up on time, which makes it impossible for people to give up cars and turn to public transport, running the risk of losing their job.

Having worked in a quality position for many years for Japanese companies, who thrive on continuous improvement and putting customers first, I now find it unacceptable myself to receive poor customer service from others.

So much so, that I have asked for explanations of delays and

refunds as compensation, which Arriva has done. I think that Arriva accepts this as an every day part of public transport.

One thing Arriva are very good at is poor communication when delays or cancellations occur.

They will tell you that the next train is available and on time, when they are not sure themselves.

The intercoms at Llantwit station do not work, which sums up that Arriva cannot supply accurate information to the public.

I am sure that I am not the only one to feel

angry and frustrated with having to accept second best from our public transport. I urge the public to apply for refunds and compensation from Arriva every time they are delayed or cancelled. They can do so via the Arriva website, or ask for a customer comment form at any station.

For those of you who are thinking of using public transport as an alternative to going green, I would suggest that you experience it first before giving up the car, or you could just get left out in the cold.

Mark Kirkham, St Athan

Horse manure: risk of disease

IT is Sian Lewis and not Leanne Sokolski who doesn't know what she is talking about when it comes to the potential dangers of horse manure (last week's GEM letters).

As any gardener worth their salt could tell you, fresh horse manure CAN carry disease. When the manure is used in the garden, it is broken down (and becomes compost) and is no longer harmful to humans or to crops.

I suggest Sian Lewis gets her facts straight in future before so rudely attacking others. **Mr H Matthews, Dinas Powys**

Rush to shovel up the manure!

JUST a few lines to add perhaps a little humour to the ongoing saga of horses and dogs in The GEM letters columns.

I am 91 years old, London-born, and lived in a quiet residential street of terraced houses.

There were very few cars or vans in the early 1920s, but plenty of horse-drawn carts.

It was nothing unusual, if a cart was seen coming along the street, for several housewives to come rushing out holding a bucket and shovel, hoping to shovel up some 'droppings' and even squabble over who was there first!

Each house had a small back garden and the manure was precious. *There's a thought for a nice summer's day!* **Mrs Eve Balfour, Llanblethian**

Red kite seen

DO anyone else see the red kite over Primrose Hill last Saturday (March 13) around mid-day?

It was cruising just above hedge-height and circled our garden for about a minute before flying on. **Martin Tomlinson, Cowbridge**

'Get serious about litter'

I HAVE read with interest some of the recent letters in The GEM concerning litter, and totally agree with GJ Taylor of Ystradowen.

Litter is definitely a problem in the Vale (as it is in many areas around the UK).

So why don't we take a 'zero tolerance' approach, put clear signs up and fine the culprits heavily – as in other countries?

The hard-working people who have to pick up litter are obviously commendable – but maybe we should not do this for a period of time and allow everyone to see how quickly the litter will build up and

how much of a problem we have.

On Sunday, March 7, I saw how much litter was on the playing fields near the local leisure centre – clearly dropped by people over the last couple of weeks, as I had seen the area 'litter-picked' just a few weeks previously.

It may not be the most serious issue facing us at the moment, but it is an annoying example of the slovenly attitude of 'chav UK'.

Consider how much money is spent by the council cleansing department, which could be allocated elsewhere, along with the income from fines! Let's get serious, for goodness sake.

Andrew Smith, Maendy

Litter: just who is to blame?

I HAVE been following the letters in The GEM about the litter problem in the Vale, as I also hate the sight of it and feel it should be cleared up far more often than it seems to be.

I would like to take this a step further: I get so frustrated when farmers or land-owners cut their hedges, but leave all the debris littering the roads or pathways.

This is most obvious on Primrose Hill and alongside Cotterell Park Golf Club, but it is also present elsewhere.

Who is responsible for clearing this up? Is it the highways, or the

person responsible for the mess?

I believe that people should be made to clear up after themselves, but understand that care must be taken when using the highways.

Also, this debris doesn't help with drainage in heavy rain, and can cause water to flow across the roads, due to blocked drains.

I did contact the council last year about Primrose Hill, but just got the usual "it will be passed on" message, but nothing was done.

Perhaps a bit of publicity will bring the problem to the council's notice! **P Williams, Cowbridge**

No respect for the community

I HOPE the community of Barry and tourists did not rise early on Mother's Day and stroll down the Knap to enjoy the wonderful fresh weather and beautiful scenery.

If they did, they would have been confronted with bottles of alcohol lying across the breadth of the promenade and the lake.

Broken glass was everywhere, bins vandalised and plastic bags thrown into the water.

From about 7pm the night before, over 50 young people, aged 12-

18, were gathered at the Knap (the nucleus was at the skate board park).

OK, so there was a little bit of noise and debauchery, but they are young and I saw no reason to ring the authorities.

However, this group had little respect for where they live or the community around them.

Rest assured, next time any sort of gathering starts to appear, I will be contacting the police.

As always, the actions of one group spoils enjoyment for the others. (Name and address supplied)

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CHRIS FRANKS AM

Plaid Cymru Assembly Member
South Wales Central

ADVICE SURGERY

WHEN: Friday 26th March

**WHERE: Methodist Church Hall,
Albert Road, Penarth**

TIME: 2.00-3.00pm



Speed warning signs set for Redlands Road

SPEED warning signs are set to be erected on a busy Penarth road where there have been a series of accidents, Regional AM Chris Franks has learnt.

The Assembly Member, who lives in Dinas Powys, wrote to the Vale Council because of concerns over road safety in Redlands Road, Penarth.

In a letter to Mr Franks, the cabinet member for visible services, Coun Geoffrey Cox ruled out traffic calming, describing it as an inappropriate measure to address safety concerns.

"I do feel, however, that the use of portable driver feedback signs would be of benefit. These battery-operated signs can be deployed on a post almost anywhere. They serve to remind

drivers of their speed and the limit of the road."

A survey on the north bound section of Redlands Road (south of Hastings Avenue) found that between January 23 and 27, a total of 236 vehicles exceeded the speed threshold for prosecution.

On the southbound section, 373 vehicles exceeded the speed threshold for prosecution on January 28.

Over a five-year period there have been 13 collisions on Redlands Road between its junctions with Cardiff Road and Lavernock Road - three of them serious.

In the section on Redlands Road between its junctions with Hastings Avenue to Cornerswell Road, there were nine accidents, five involving drivers aged between 17 and 24.

Chris Franks said: "Clearly, there are issues of speed in parts of Redlands Road which need to be tackled.

"I'm pleased at the assurance that portable speed warning signs will be put up by the Vale Council.

"I would also like to see the police targeting this road, because evidence suggests that a significant number of drivers are exceeding the speed limit and they need to be brought to book.

KNAP MOVE INTO SEMIS

TWO old rivals, SW Dockers and The Knap, met at the Butts and the game did not disappoint.

Scott Walters slotted the first of the game and the Knap were in control, with man of the match Kevin Payne and the reliable Matthew Watts controlling the back.

The Knap went 2 - 0 up when a sublime ball was whipped in and found Steven Coxon, who headed in.

The Dockers came back in the second half, but the midfield of skipper Chris Bardsley and Wayne Davies worked all around the pitch and Andrew Dobbs ran his socks off up front.

A late penalty made it 2-1 to The Knap. **LI**

CALLING ALL EX-TEACHERS!
A MEETING will be held on April 15 from 10.15am-12.15pm to arrange a programme of gatherings and outings for retired Vale teachers.

Anyone interested in meeting old friends and colleagues, can meet for coffee at the Old Hall, Cowbridge. For further details, contact either Chris Hutchinson on 01446 774161, or Joy Woodward on 07977 701713.

Soroptimists raise cash for charity at fashion show



ABOVE: Kay receiving a basket of flowers from president Iris Hopkins, together with the models and helpers, all club members.

INSTEAD of a formal function to mark the end of her year of office, Mrs Iris Hopkins of Dinas Powys, president of Soroptimist International Barry and District, held a successful afternoon tea and fashion show.

It was held in St Augustine's Church Hall, Albert Road, Penarth, supported by Coun and Mrs Emyln Williams, Mayor and Mayoress of the Vale and Coun John Fraser, Town Mayor of Penarth.

Unfortunately, the town mayoress was unable to attend. Kay Thomas, a club member, who owns a classic ladies' fashion shop in Llanishen, hosted the fashion show when almost £800 was raised, which will be donated to Soroptimist

International's quadrennial project, Project Sierra.

The project, which runs from 2007-2011, is a partnership between Soroptimist International and Hope and Homes for Children, and is supported

by every club within the organisation.

The aim is to raise £1 million to transform the lives of some of the most deprived women and children in the world, and so far £500,000 has been raised.

Police appeal after man (76) is injured

POLICE in the Vale are appealing for information - after a 76-year-old male pedestrian was seriously injured by a van as he walked between Cowbridge and Ystradowen.

The incident took place on Monday, February 8, at around 3pm.

A police spokesman said: "An elderly couple were walking along a narrow lane between Ystradowen and

Cowbridge Road when they saw a red van approaching and stood on the verge.

"It appears that the door mirror of the van struck the male as it went past, causing serious injuries.

"He was taken by ambulance to the Princess of Wales hospital where his injuries were not life-threatening."

The spokesman said that the van did not stop. He continued: "We are looking for a red

transit-type panel van with lettering or marking along the panels.

"Police believe it may be a TV aerial fitter's vehicle, and we would like to hear from any local residents who may have had a satellite dish or television aerial fitted on Monday, February 8."

Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Gareth Owens at Llantwit Major police station on 101.

BARRIVALE BRIDGE NEWS

WINNING PAIR



Mark Roderick and Noelle Bond, winners of the recent mixed pairs championship.

RESULTS for March 2

1st, Mark Roderick & Mick Green, 68.52 per cent; 2nd, Lyn Matthews & Alan Jones, 61.90 per cent; 3rd, Mike Close & Mike Best, 58.24 per cent. Lyn & Alan won on handicap.

Fairtrade coffee at Dinas Powys



THE Dinas Powys branch of the RNLI won a major prize at the Fairtrade coffee/tea morning in the Village Hall to celebrate Dinas Powys becoming the first Fairtrade village in the Vale.

Their entry was a lifebelt surrounding a storm-tossed sea with an

RNLI teapot, hurrying to the rescue of a sailor trying to keep his coffee mug afloat by padding desperately with a teaspoon. The caption read, 'A mug of Fair Trade tea - it's a lifesaver'.

The photo shows Mrs Di Balch, chairwoman of Dinas Powys RNLI branch and Sue Hamer, chairwoman of Dinas Powys Fairtrade group.

SCOTT CENTENARY

THE Captain Scott Society is joining other polar organisations to mark the June centenary of the departure of Captain Scott's expedition ship, SS Terra Nova, from Cardiff.

The society aims to recreate the events during the five days she was in Cardiff in June 1910, including the banquet held in the Captain Scott Room at the Royal Hotel.

The departure itself will be recreated by the Tall Ships Youth Trust vessel, the Stavros S Niarchos, with the ocean survey vessel HMS Scott providing a naval presence. The Stavros S Niarchos will be escorted by HMS Express and the band of HM Royal Marines will play as she departs.

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Tuesday - Sunday

Evening Buffet 5.30 pm till late

Adult £11.50; Child £6.50

Monday - Sunday

(Friday & Saturday additional £1 per person)

Dishes include: Aromatic Duck, Satay Chicken, Mussels, Sushi, Noodles, Rice, Chicken, Beef dishes, cakes, fruit, ice cream, chocolate fountain & lots more.

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When booking four Adult Evening Buffet meals, one adult will eat for **FREE** (conditions apply)

Tuesday Specials

All bottles of House Wine (75cl) only £8.90 per bottle -

All drinks - buy 2 get one **FREE!** (cheapest drink free)

Wednesday & Thursdays GRILL NIGHT

Selection of marinated meat grilled to tantalise your taste buds, this is part of the buffet at no extra cost. Still only Adult £11.50 per person Child (under 140cm) £6.50 per person

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DEMENTIA PROTEST PETITION AT SENEDD



Mr and Mrs Cummins, Mr and Mrs Jones and Denise and Michael Stephens hand in the petition at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay.

VALE AM Jane Hutt has been handed a protest petition about services provided for people who experience early on-set dementia.

She said she welcomed their petition against funding cuts which will affect the services and commented: "I am glad residents and carers who use this important service have come to the Senedd to meet Assembly Members and to tell us directly about their lives and how the service has helped them.

"I have already made my representations about this service and will be meeting the petitioners again to help find a way forward."

MOZART'S GREAT MASS

ON Sunday, March 21 at 7.30pm in St Augustine's church, Penarth, Cantermus Chamber Choir, Wales, directed by Robert Court, will perform Mozart's Great Mass in C Minor, with St Augustine's chamber orchestra and soloists from Cardiff International Academy of Voice, established at Cardiff University by Welsh tenor Dennis O'Neill. Also taking part are Claire Egan and Vivienne Hassell (sopranos), David Fortey (tenor) and Njabulo Madlala (baritone).

Welsh ambulance chief decides to step down

'I BELIEVE THAT I HAVE TAKEN THE TRUST AS FAR AS I CAN...'

ALAN MURRAY, the chief executive of the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust, is to step down at the end of March.

Mr Murray said: "During the past three and a half years, we have been able to implement wide-ranging changes, leading to significant progress in improving our performance.

"Nurses are triaging less serious 999 calls and resolving almost three-quarters of them on the phone.

"The first-ever university-educated paramedics will graduate in August. Our first specialist practitioners are now operational, seeing and treating many more people in their own homes, keeping them out of hospital.

"While strong foundations have been laid for the future, a lot of hard work remains to be done. He added: "I am proud of what our staff have achieved, but I believe that I have taken the Trust as far as I can. It is a high profile, high pressure job and I believe the time

has now come to pass the baton to someone new. "I want to thank everybody who works for the Welsh Ambulance Service, staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication. They fully deserve the confidence and admiration of the people of Wales."

Stuart Fletcher, the chairman of the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust, said: "I would like to thank Alan for his important contribution during a crucial period in the history of the Welsh Ambulance Service.

"Our performance has improved considerably since he took the reins in 2006.

"He is the main architect of our comprehensive modernisation programme 'Time to Make a Difference' which has provided us with an excellent strategy to improve the service.

"We will conduct a careful search to find a successor who can take the Welsh Ambulance Service forward to the next level, in terms of our progress, and create an organisation of which Wales can be proud."

Children's Commissioner joins in praising work of 'inspiring' young people

CHILDREN'S Commissioner for Wales, Keith Towler, was the keynote speaker at Vale AM Jane Hutt's ninth spring breakfast at Barry college.

He praised the young people from Vale school councils, who spoke about their activities.

The Children's Commissioner said that young people are making a huge contribution in their schools and communities.

They should get a good press and recognition of their hard work and commitment, as supported by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Ms Hutt, who hosted the breakfast, said: "I invited the Vale Youth Forum and school councils from across my constituency to the spring breakfast.

"They told us about their important work in promoting pupil participation in school life,



Jane Hutt AM with Children's Commissioner Keith Towler and pupils from St Richard Gwyn school and Gibbonsdown Youth Forum.

including fundraising for charity, fair trade and Eco activities.

"Georgia Mitchell from Gibbonsdown Youth Forum spoke about their involvement in Gibbonsdown Communities First, and Nigel Streeter introduced himself as the new Vale Youth Forum

Coordinator.

"It was an inspiring event, with an excellent breakfast prepared by the students at Barry College.

"I would like to thank them and the staff for their help in organising this wonderful celebration of our young people."

SPRING PLAY
THE Potato Street Players spring production is the second of a set of three plays - The Norman Conquest by Alan Ayckbourn at Wick Village Hall on March 24, 25 and 26 at 7.30pm.

Tickets £5, available on 01656 890382 or 890320.

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Time to 'wake up on subject of litter

by GEM reader
DAVID ALEXANDER

MUCH has been said in recent weeks in The GEM about the problem of litter in the Vale.

In his reply to criticism of the council's efforts to clear up litter, Clifford Parish said: "It is with regret I assure GEM readers that the vast amount of litter on our streets is generated by members of the public."

No doubt, as a representative of the local council Mr Parish feels, quite rightly, that he must express himself with a degree of tact.

The real truth is that it is high time we faced the facts of life and asked what sort of area we want to live in.

The local council it seems is 'piggy in the middle' and is damned if it does and damned if it doesn't. If the litter isn't cleared, it's the council's fault. If it is cleared, then the local authority gets criticised for over-spending on one particular problem to the neglect of others.

We are all missing the point here.

It is not the fault of the local council that

people, visitors and locals alike, leave an unmanageable amount of litter behind them.

The simple truth is that we live in a time in which a significant number of people have great difficulty in thinking beyond their own immediate interests without any thought for consequences of the rest of the world in general.

It is those people who are the problem more than the litter they create.

It is those people who create the problem and those people who have to choose whether they want to be the problem or the solution.

We are blessed to live here. Barry is a beautiful spot with the best of everything - big city, countryside and spectacular coast - all on the doorstep.

We all have a responsibility to look after it. Look out of the train window as you travel to Cardiff - what do you see? Litter. Walk the streets, what do you see? Discarded lager cans, take away food packaging, cigarette butts, chewing gum - litter. Go to the beach what do you



Jackson's Bay as it should be.

find? Litter, despite the council's valiant efforts.

On several occasions since I moved to Barry five years ago, I have been incensed at the litter left on our beautiful beaches. All of that litter is unsightly, a significant amount of it, glass bottles are an obvious example, is dangerous. That litter is left by people.

Those people are intelligent enough to command sufficient income to enable them to afford to buy good food from the supermarket. They are discerning enough to enjoy a bottle of good wine.

Somehow, however, the simple commonsense expedient of picking up the empty cartons, packaging, lager cans and wine bottles, putting it in the plastic bags so kindly provided by the supermarket and disposing of it properly (all of it is recyclable) is quite beyond their intelligence.

As you can see, the photographs which illustrate my point were taken on Jackson's Bay which is frequented more by locals than visitors.

The problem of litter goes far beyond what some might regard as a petty local matter. It is

rapidly becoming a world problem.

A classic example is Laysan, a 960-acre island about 1,000 miles northwest of Honolulu.

When this island, one of the most remote in the world, was visited by an American team of biologists, it was found not to be the pristine paradise they expected but strewn with an unbelievable variety of plastic rubbish.

The US team catalogued thousands of pellets, as well as toy soldiers, disposable lighters and one toy Godzilla - all made of plastic.

That plastic was killing seabirds and other creatures, who mistook it for something to eat.

That plastic had been dropped on beaches like ours and carried thousands of miles across the sea by the tides. What local council clears that up?

It is 'wake up' time. If the remotest islands in the world are, almost literally, disappearing under a sea of plastic litter, what chance does a little place like Barry, frequented by so many people, have - unless those people change?

Forum marks Women's Day in Barry

MEMBERS of the Vale Older People's Strategy Forum (OPF) met Jane Hutt AM to celebrate International Women's Day at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry.

The occasion sees women of all ages come together in their struggle for justice and equal rights. They are often divided by ethnic, cultural and political differences.

"We would like to thank everyone concerned for an excellent presentation, making it a very informative day," said Winnie Davies, spokeswoman for the forum.

Gardening Club
THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be held on Thursday, March 25, at 7.30pm in the lesser hall, at the Town Hall, when the talk will be on 'Attracting Birds to your Garden' by Mr Martin Humphries.

New members are welcome.



ABOVE:
Rene Gannon and Lynda Wallis (both OPF), Jane Hutt AM, Audrey Jones and Winnie Davies (OPF).

Prince Harry backs 'Friends of the Forces' national awards

A NATIONAL awards scheme to recognise members of the public who provide exceptional support to the British Armed Forces was launched last week in south Wales by the Royal British Legion, with support from Prince Harry.

A lieutenant with the Household Cavalry (Blues and Royals) he served in Afghanistan with the British Army for more than two months.

"For those serving in the British Armed

Forces, the knowledge that others are thinking of them has a hugely positive effect that cannot be underestimated. I remember that very acutely," the Prince added.

Claire Williams, the Royal British Legion's manager for south Wales, invited members of the public to step forward with nominations:

"The Friends of the Forces Awards will say thank you to anyone in south Wales who has contributed materially to the well-being or appreciation of our Armed Forces."

"We hear of so many amazing acts of kindness and support that we strongly urge people to

submit south Wales area nominations for these exciting new awards."

Winners will be chosen in categories recognising individual, young individual, community group and commercial organisation contributions.

They will then be announced in eight regions covering Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Those shortlisted for the national awards will attend a royal gala ceremony in London in July.

For more information or to apply, visit www.friends-of-the-forces.org.uk or contact 0845 363 1478.



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Recycling scheme expands in Vale

JUST over a third of homes in the Vale (20,000) are now covered by the Vale Council's kerbside kitchen waste recycling scheme, a spokesman reported.

The whole of Penarth and Dinas Powys is now covered, and existing 'kitchen waste' areas - Barry Island, St Athan and camp, Sully and Lavernock - have also been joined by the villages of Michaelston-le-Pit and Leckwith.

"Since the scheme's launch when 7,500 homes were involved, the council has collected more than 665 tonnes of kitchen waste - equivalent to more than 50 red double decker buses - for recycling from kerbside caddies," he revealed.

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Penarth Computer Club learn about home networks

IN his recent talk, Chris spent some time stressing the need to keep a home network secure and warned that the device in your home that connects to the Internet is your 'router,' NOT your computer.

If anyone can connect to your router they can download material in your name and without your knowing – until the law knocks on your door!

As part of the process of setting up a home network, it is essential to ensure that the network is protected from being hijacked by someone who would like to take advantage of a free ride and be anonymous while doing so.

It is illegal to use someone's network without permission so no-one will ever take advantage of yours, will they? Of course not! So you will be happy to take responsibility for any illegal

material downloaded through your router. (As far as the rest of the world is concerned it must have been you.)

These days, routers are usually supplied with a secure 'key' that must be used in order to set it up and to access it. If it doesn't, then be sure to create one.

The router picks up an IP (Internet Protocol) identity number from the internet and allocates identity numbers to all the devices on your home network.

XP users might already have a home network (default name Workgroup). A new Windows 7 network will have a default name of 'Homegroup' that is more appropriate.

The home gadget that attaches directly to the internet is called a modem that, on the home side, also connects to a router. BT, for instance, combines both items into their home 'hub'. If a wireless facility is included (as in the BT

home hub) the whole thing is called a wireless router.

Confusingly, it is sometimes referred to as an AP (Access Point). This seems reasonable as it is the point of access to the internet that includes a wireless facility.

However, the term is more accurately used to identify any stand alone wireless transmitter that 'talks' to a computer on a network.

The system is not confused because it has the unique (IP) identity number and a whole load of ancillary information about the device. As always, it is the human element that introduces the fuzziness to the naming!

Chris went on to illustrate what is involved in setting up a network and how the operating system helps along the way – as does the software associated with the devices.

Home networks will rapidly become more popular (if not essential) very soon, and we shall be returning to the topic from time to time.

At the next meeting on March 23, Chris will be giving Part 2 of his talk about setting up a personal website. Visitors and new members welcome. For more information, telephone 029 2070 8439.

HOWARD DESMOND
(Chairman)

Transforming the mundane picture into a work of art!



Before and after tapping into Guy's expertise – what an improvement a little digital tweaking can make!



WITH the Positive Image Photographic Society meeting once a fortnight, Bernard, our speakers' secretary, realised that the 'in-between evening' could be used as an informal workshop evening.

Instead of listening to a guest speaker, members simply get together, share ideas and experience and learn from each other.

Bernard, himself a very experienced photographer together with

Guy, whose knowledge of digital techniques is encyclopaedic, led the first workshop.

Starting with paintings from the masters of art, Bernard helped unravel the mysteries of composition; 'rules of thirds', 'leading lines', 'L shapes' and 'triangles'.

Guy demonstrated how, by using a little 'digital tweaking', a truly mediocre picture can be transformed into a treasured portrait.

Future workshops are going to be very much 'hands on' and group led.

Positive Image Photographic Society meets at 7-30pm on alternative Thursday evenings at St Baruc's Church, Phyllis Street Barry Island.

We welcome your news.
Email: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

NEWS FROM BARRY MEN'S FORUM

Night the Tay bridge collapsed

THE speaker last week at Barry Men's Forum, was Allan Underhill who gave an illustrated talk on The Tay Bridge Disaster.

By way of an introduction to his talk, Allan gave a brief background on the life of Thomas Bouch. As a young man, he was appointed engineer and manager for the Eastern and Northern Railway, introducing the roll-on-roll off ferries.

On leaving the E&N he became a consulting engineer and in 1870 was responsible for the construction of the Tay Bridge, at the time the longest bridge in the world.

The bridge was to cross the Firth of Tay, reducing the travel time between Edinburgh and Dundee by an hour. The first train crossed the Tay bridge in September, 1877.

In regard to the fateful night, December 28, 1879, a storm force gale was experienced as the train crossed the Tay Bridge.

A one-way traffic system was in

operation and the signalbox man was put on alert, when the train became overdue, giving rise to enquiry.

Events showed that the central navigation spans had collapsed into the Firth of Tay, Dundee, plunging the engine and six carriages into the icy waters. There were no survivors and 75 people were lost.

A Court of Inquiry was held and it was concluded that the bridge failed due to the insufficiency of the cross bracing and its fastenings. There were also construction and maintenance issues.

Thomas Bouch (now Sir Thomas) was held chiefly at fault and he was subsequently released from the services of North British Railway and after a long illness died in October 1880.

The present Tay rail bridge runs alongside the remains of Thomas Bouch's bridge, a lasting reminder of the disaster.

Barry Men's Forum meet every Thursday morning. All enquiries 029 20 594881.

PETER WESTCOTT

Tracing the complex history of Bute Park

A RECENT speaker at Barry Men's Forum, was landscape architect Rosie James.

Closely associated with developments at Bute Park, Cardiff, she outlined its complex history. Formally laid out for the pleasure of the third Marquess of Bute in the late 1800s, the park was gifted to the citizens of Cardiff in 1947, but remained part-owned by the Roman Catholic Church. (Lord Bute had gifted land to the church before his death).

Originally, the grounds contained a Dominican friary, which during the Reformation passed from the Crown to an impoverished local dignitary, who promptly demolished it.

It is not widely known that the soft air and soil of this area encourages the growth of rare trees and the Park Arboretum is one of the top 20 tree sites in Britain with 48 champion trees planted

there. Future projects planned are for the restoration of the friary, the restoration of water to the mill leet, repairing the park entrances, new signage, improved footpaths and the reduction of conflict between vehicles/cyclists and pedestrians.

Meetings of the Men's Forum are held every Thursday at 10.30am. New members are welcome. Telephone 029 2059 4881 for further information.

MAC TANNER

Digging into garden history

NEWS FROM RHOOSE WI

RHOOSE WI held their monthly meeting on March 4 at the Community Hall, Stewart Road, where members celebrated St David's Day with a delicious supper of soup and Welsh cakes.

The speaker for the evening was Mr Desmond Woods, a volunteer at the Botanical Garden of Wales at

Llanarthne. He gave a short history of the family who originally owned the house and land, and showed slides of the present-day gardens and the Great Glasshouse, accompanied by a resumé of the work undertaken by staff.

Future plans include a visit to Boverton WI to participate in the Link meeting and an undertaking to take part in the Rhose Flower Festival in July.

Members will attend the Rhose WI anniversary lunch at the Farmers Arms, St Brides Major and delegates will also attend the spring council meeting of the Glamorgan Federation at St David's Hall in April.

The next meeting of Rhose WI will take place on Thursday, April 1, at the Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhose at 7.30pm when Mrs Glensy Care will talk about family history.

SPRING CONCERT

THE spring concert by the Dinas Powys Orchestra will take place on Sunday, March 21 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys, under musical director Antony Tarlton.

Leader Kay Marshall is soloist in Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending*.

The programme will open with Elgar's *Serenade for Strings* and will also include Delius' *On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring* and Brahms *Serenade in D Major*.

For details, telephone 029 20 704195.

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St David's primary pupils remember their patron saint with patriotic songs (and dress!)

ON March 1, children from St David's Church in Wales Primary celebrated St David's Day with their very own eisteddfod and they dressed up in Welsh costume.

The costumes ranged from the traditional to the contemporary.

Each class performed an item. There was a variety of singing, poetry, Welsh conversations and folk dancing. Children had the opportunity to enter many competitions and the judges commented on the very high standard of entries.

There were also individual musical performances in which the instruments included the flute, electric guitar, violin and guitar.

The climax of the afternoon was the 'chairing of the Bard' Maya Bell, a pupil in year-6 was awarded this prestigious title for her modern-day poem describing Wales in the future.

A great day was had by all. *Mae llawer o hwyl!*

C JONES
(Welsh co-ordinator)



Year-1 singing about 'Y Tywydd'!



Violinists Flo Wellard and Patrick Sheppard show their skill.



Bard winner Maya Bell, year-6.



Sam Clarke plays 'Mae hen wlad' on the saxophone.



Year-3 pupils singing 'Proud to be Welsh'.



The four winners of best Welsh costume.

NEWS IN BRIEF...NEWS IN BRIEF...

Vale AM's surgery

VALE of Glamorgan Assembly Member Jane Hutt, will be holding surgeries this Saturday (March 20) at The Old School, Wine Street, Llantwit Major from 10am-11am; and at the Old School Hall, Church Lane, St Athan from 11.30am-12noon.

Contact the constituency office on 01446 740981 for further information.

Volunteer surgeries

THE Vale Volunteer Bureau is hosting advice surgeries on March 23 at The Gathering Place, St Athan (10am-12pm) at Penarth leisure centre (4pm-6pm); and then again on March 24 at Cowbridge Library (1pm-3pm).

For further information, contact Joe on 01446 421782, or visit www.vvb.org.uk

MAYOR'S COFFEE FOR CHARITY

VALEPLUS, the Vale-based charity that provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability, is holding a coffee morning on March 23, at 10.30am hosted by Coun Emlyn Williams, the Mayor of the Vale in the Civic Offices, Barry.

Stalls include a cake stall, gifts, toiletries, goods from NOVA, the ValePlus shop and a raffle. Tickets £1.50, available in advance from ValePlus, Nova (telephone 01446 746691) or they can be bought at the door.

TONIGHT: Cowbridge Physic Garden Gardeners' Question Time

in the St Quentin's Suite at the
Bear Hotel, Cowbridge

Thursday, March 18th at 7.30pm

Tickets £5 per person (pay at the door); Bar, Raffle & Plant Sale; For pre-booked tickets, phone: 01446 774030 or book on-line

Church Street, COWBRIDGE, Vale of Glamorgan
www.cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk

Local golf club gets Ryder Cup windfall

WELSH golfer and tour professional, Sion Bebb will be returning to his home golf club tomorrow

Friday, March 19, to mark the opening of the new indoor facility at Llantrisant and Pontyclun Golf Club,

funded by the Ryder Cup Wales Legacy Fund.

The project, which has received a financial boost of £27,940 towards total project costs, has seen the creation of a new indoor teaching area with practice nets and putting area.

The Ryder Cup Wales Legacy Fund is a £2m investment into grassroots golf, provided by the Welsh Assembly Government, as part of the winning 2010 Ryder Cup bid.

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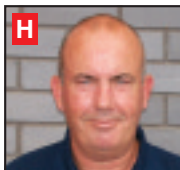
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Judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Good luck!

Grant scheme helps sports clubs expand

MORE than £42,000 has been invested in community sport and physical activity in the Vale during the last year thanks to a special grants scheme.

The Community Chest scheme, agreed by a panel of volunteers with support from the Vale Council's sports and play development team and the Sports Council for Wales, benefited 51 local sports clubs and organisations during 2009-10.

Grants up to the maximum £1,000 were awarded. A number of new clubs were set up thanks to the grants, while sports rang-

ing from boxing to boccia, and cricket to canoeing, were all boosted by funding which went towards buying new equipment, sports hall hire and improving coaching standards.

The Vale Council's sports and play development manager, Karen Davies, said: "It is pleasing to see that a growing number of the applicants for grants this year were community groups and workplaces, not just established sports clubs, and I hope that even more get in touch with proposals during the next year."

The most recent round of Community Chest grants, which brought the year to an end, saw

18 clubs and organisations receiving a share of £15,147.69. Among those awarded the maximum £1,000 grant were Dinas Powys Cricket Club, who will be expanding junior membership, and Llantwit Major Tae Kwon Do Club, who will be buying a wide range of new equipment.

If you are part of a Vale-based organisation, club or workplace and would like to discuss a potential Community Chest application, contact Karen Davies on 01446 704793 or request an application form by calling Julie Morgan on 01446 704748.



The Colcot Boxing Club in Barry were among 51 Vale-based sports clubs, organisations and workplaces that received Community Chest grants last year.



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Mark your entries 'Who Drives What?' competition', and send them on a postcard to The Glamorgan GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, or email: gemsales@internet-today.co.uk, no later than 12 noon, Friday, April 2nd.

Judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Good luck!

AUSTRALIAN Rules Football – the principles of the game are evident from the name right? Football?

"Well, not exactly," explains Nick Baker, the president of the Vale Warriors, the Vale's newly established Australian Rules Football team.

"There is some kicking involved, but the similarity ends

Australian Rules Football heads to Vale

there. We play with an oval-shaped ball which is carried, kicked, bounced and 'handed-off' to other players, so I guess rugby would be the closest match, although it is a different game entirely."

2010 will be the inaugural year for the Vale Warriors, and

the Welsh Australian Rules Football League (WARFL) now has five teams competing for the 2010 Welsh title.

Training for the season starts in March, with the league games running throughout the summer and various other tournaments and

international series leading through to the beginning of the rugby season again at the end of the year.

The Vale Warriors are based at Barry RFC and are hoping to attract new players from all over the Vale.

Although all five teams at present are men's teams, WARFL

are keen to hear from anyone 16-plus interested in playing regardless of sex or capability.

If you are interested in playing or have any questions, visit the website at: www.warfl.co.uk or contact president Nick Baker: nick.baker@warfl.co.uk, 07887 524 661, or coach David Morgan-Kane 07805 838 933

ALL FISHED OUT!

FEBRUARY ended as it began for the Sea View Lads anglers - with few fish!

The final match held on the 28th was embarrassing, with a mere 12oz winning top honours.

The remaining top six anglers relied on solitary tiddlers, mostly rockling, to avoid blanking.

March will be much better and we await the first dogfish with unheated enthusiasm.

At least we have the social activities and trips to look forward too!

March 28: 1st R.Bond. 0.12ozs. pout; 2nd R Green. 0.11ozs. slug.s/h rockling; 3rd A Harris. 0.10ozs. slug; 3rd W.Taylor. 0.10ozs. whiting; 5th E.Collins. 0.06ozs. s/h rockling; 6th J.Wyatt. 0.04ozs. s/h rockling.

CALLING ALL CLUBS!

The GEM welcomes your match reports, and other club items of interest.

Email: ggem@internet-today.co.uk or post to: The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL

Bryn Hafren comprehensive school triumphant in Rotary Youth Speaks contest!



A delighted Angela Burd.

BRYN HAFREN Comprehensive, as winners of the junior and senior competition, represented Barry to find the best debaters in Cardiff and the Vale at a Rotary Youth Speaks competition held in Cardiff Bay.

The junior team of Aimee Delaney, Lis sie Wallington, and Kathryn Gardner, debated 'Killer custard creams and a crack-down on conkers - we are becoming a nation of health and safety psychopaths'.

They gave a sterling performance, but were runners-up to Cardiff High School, who debated 'This House believes that women's sport should be treated equally with men's'.

The seniors, again from Bryn Hafren, debated 'This House believes that a baby is a blessing, not a right'.

In a very tight con-



Rosie-Loup James was the best chairperson.

test, Rosie-Loup James took the prize for best chairperson and the team, including Lili-Beth James as proposer and Hannah Parker as opposer, scooped the team prize.

Afterwards, the Bryn Hafren team surprised teacher Angela Burd by presenting her with a bouquet of flowers and a box of chocolates for her help and guidance in their success!



Rosie-Loup James, Lili-Beth James and Hannah Parker receive the senior trophy from Gerry Foy, president of Cardiff Bay Rotary Club.



Lissie Wallington, Aimee Delaney and Kathryn Gardner receive the runners-up prize.

St David's Day golf at Cottrell Park ladies



ABOVE: The winners celebrate at Cottrell Park

ST DAVID'S DAY was celebrated by the ladies of Cottrell Park with a 12-hole Texas scramble competition between the Daffodils and the Leeks.

The individual team event was won by Sandra Collin, Barbara Ross, Eileen Love and Lyn Thomas, with a net score of 43, and the second-placed team of Lorraine Pointon, Bell, Gaynor Smart, Helen Evans and

Brenda Stacey had a net score of 49.1.

The Daffodils were the victors in the overall competition, which was followed by lunch with a Welsh flavour, including Welsh lamb and Welsh cakes.

The prizes were presented by the ladies captain, Lorraine Pointon Bell.

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Bridgend student wins top award for the Barry College

A BRIDGEND teenager won a top prize when Barry College hosted the Welsh heat of the prestigious UK Electrical and Plumbing Apprentice of the Year competition.

Plumbing learner Gareth Evans (19) beat off competition from apprentices across Wales to win the prize for the region in the electrical category.

Tony Cable, an engineer with electrical contracting body NICEIC and one of the competition's judges, said: "The



ABOVE:
Gareth Evans with Tony Cable.

competition was extremely close on the electrical side - there were three competitors who it was really hard to choose between. But it in the end only one could make it, and that was Gareth for all the work he put in."

'PROTECT GREYHOUNDS' says Plaid Cymru AM

PLAID Cymru AM Leanne Wood is backing a Senedd call by the Greyhound Welfare Advisory Board for the Welsh Government to introduce regulations to protect racing greyhounds in Wales.

"The public can show their support for new regulations to protect greyhounds by using www.apgawales.org/betterbet where they can sign a petition calling for a change in the law in Wales," she said. Alain Thomas, a spokesperson for the Board said: "We know that many owners care well for their greyhounds, but we are also aware that others do not and that significant numbers of greyhounds in Wales are abandoned or killed. Racing greyhounds are not protected by any regulations."

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr M Phipps - White Lodge, Primrose Hill, Cowbridge - alterations to access to highway. Mr Canning - 5 Harlech Close, Dinas Powys - disabled facilities adaptation to include ramped access and shower room extension.

Mr John Gilbart - Kninkin, St Hilary - proposed alterations and extension to existing cottage including slate roof to replace thatched roof (removed July 2009). Demolition of existing garage and replacement with double garage with games room/storage over.

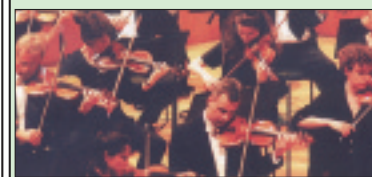
Mr Clive Edwards - Ty Maen Farm, Coed Marsarnen Road, Colwinston - construction of two detached houses with basements. Rhodri Hughes - Ty Dan Y Graig, Graig Penllyn, Cowbridge - erection of mobile field shelter on metal skids on land adjacent to Ty Dan Y Graig, Graig Penllyn. Mr Evans - 50 Fairfield Road, Penarth - take down existing bay and replace with new bay and new tiled roof extending across front of house.

Mr Derek Bladen - Weycock Barn, Dyffryn - new stainless steel flue, fitted to the west facing gable end wall. Mr and Mrs G Perkins - Castle Court, Broad Close Lane, Moulton - retention and reduction in height of existing hay barn.

Mr Barnell - 40 Wordsworth Avenue, Penarth - two storey side and rear extension. Mr Asfi Nasser - 182-190 Barry Road, Barry - three flagpoles -

already in place. Mr Clive Bills - 2 Murch Road, Dinas Powys - special needs adaptations, car parking hardstanding to front of garden.

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Crosslands' new pool is a boon to aching bones!

A NEW treatment is available at Crossland Kennels, now that its hydrotherapy centre has been opened.

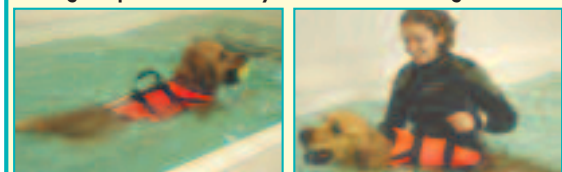
The owners, Mike and Julie Jones, have been established there since 2001, and recent developments also include 11 extra kennels, and a grooming centre.

Crosslands is a fully-fledged member of the Canine Hydrotherapy Association, and the centre has a heated pool and an aquatic tread-

mill, allowing the therapists to choose the best course of treatment for any dog.

Hydrotherapy can be beneficial for a variety of conditions, including: Hip and elbow dysplasia; arthritis; spinal injuries and paralysis; cruciate ligament injuries; pre-operative muscle strengthening; post-operative fitness and muscle rebuilding; obesity and weight management and general fitness, where it is particularly useful for working and agility dogs.

All dogs require a veterinary referral before using the centre.



Crosslands is a member of the Canine Hydrotherapy Association

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01446 793103 or e-mail us at

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The supply of the property is falling short of demand, with land being drip fed slowly onto the market.

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We are looking at the possibility of introducing poultry at the sale, which should prove to be popular.

On the residential side, the country properties which are reasonably well priced from the outset are meeting a great demand from purchasers and selling within a six-to-eight week period. There is more scope for stock numbers to be increased, as demand is strong for the right property in the correct location.

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ASPIRING gardeners can now grow their own vegetables, herbs and flowers as Riverford becomes the first ever veg delivery service to offer organic seedlings to its customers.

The new 'box to grow' range offers everyone from window-box enthusiasts to allotment owners the chance to reap the benefits of homegrown food and flowers. High quality organic seedlings come with detailed growing guides to help a gardening novice through the process.

Smaller boxes will suit those with limited space, hoping for a slice of the 'Good Life'.

There are three 'boxes to grow' to choose from, including a small, medium or large vegetable box, a herb box and a flower box.

All seedlings have been grown to organic standards from organic or untreated seeds.

Chris Moruzzi, who delivers Riverford veg-

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"Half of our customers already grow their own veg and appreciate the benefits of fresh produce, and use our weekly boxes to supplement what they can't produce themselves."

Prices start from £14.95 for a small veg or herb box, to £18.85 for flowers, and £27.95 for a large veg box.

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Call 0845 600 2311 to order or contact franchise@riverford.co.uk.

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Any owner knowingly allowing an unregistered person to shoe their horse is aiding and abetting an illegal act.

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NATIONAL PET MONTH
3rd April to 3rd May 2010

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The winning picture will receive a **£25 voucher** to spend at **PETS 'R' US**

CLOSING DATE: 31 MAY 2010

This year's Vale show is looking good already!

The Vale of Glamorgan Show takes place on **Wednesday, August 11, at Ffnon Castle.**

A record attendance last year has meant that trade stand applications have been flooding in, and well over 250 stands are expected.

Dogs, horses, cattle and sheep will again have showing classes, with schedules available in May – sponsorship packages are available.

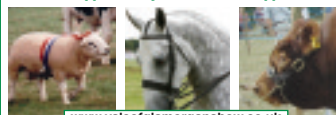
This year, James

Dylan's Stuntworld will entertain everyone in the main ring with their awesome motorcycle stunt display, along with a spectacular six-bar show jumping competition.

With so much entertainment for all the family, it is the place to be seen and meet your friends during the summer.

VALE OF GLAMORGAN SHOW

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www.valeofglamorganshow.co.uk
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In 1985, three people in Maesteg wanted to improve animal welfare and so Maesteg Animal Welfare Society (MAWS) was born.

MAWS is a small charity run entirely by volunteers – most funds

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We rehome many cats and dogs throughout the valleys, Bridgend and the Vale, and we are desperate for new homes.

Please contact 01656 721496 or 01656 653456 if you can offer a home.

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International polo comes back to Ffnon Castle

ST David's Polo Club is delighted to be returning to Ffnon Castle on June 27 for the third year, courtesy of Sir Brooke Boothby, and the club is raising the bar by introducing a Welsh Polo team recognised by the Hurlingham Polo Association, to play an international game against Italy (sponsored by Microsoft).

The 'engine' of the Wales team will be two top professional players, brothers Richard and Andrew Blake - Thomas, supported by amateur players Stuart Leigh-

Davies and Microsoft's Ricky Cooper, who will be flying in from New York to play.

All players qualify due to Welsh parentage, and with Sir Brooke's support the club plans to make Ffnon Castle the home of Welsh Polo for the foreseeable future.

Italy will be a strong team, as the majority of its players will be South American players holding Italian passports.

They are seeking revenge for the pain the Wales rugby team has inflicted over the years!

A club spokesman said: "With Cardiff Castle promoting its own Arena Polo event on the same day, we hope we can rely on strong support from the Vale to promote the game as it should be played, and

establish its roots in the countryside.

"Ticket prices start at £30 for a car and all passengers, within a picnic area on the north side of the ground with direct parking onto the ground.

"Children will be free of charge but with a warning that they must be under control, as polo can be dangerous and we would suggest the lowest age to be seven.

"Hospitality and self-catering units are on the south side of the field, prices can be found at www.stdavidspolo.co.uk (sorry no children in this area).

"Please come and enjoy a sporting day with some added 'dolce vita'.

He added: "We are supporting the Prince's Trust Cymru."





GEM RURAL PROFILE

incorporating NATIONAL PET MONTH April 3rd - May 3rd



Why you should hot-foot it to Cats Protection Centre's firewalk

FEARLESS cat lovers are going to walk barefoot across a 20-ft bed of hot coals to raise funds to help cats in Cats Protection care.

One walker will be the Mayor of Bridgend, Coun Jeff Tildesley, who will be one of 45 cat lovers hot-footing it across the burning

embers on March 27 at Cats Protection Bridgend Adoption Centre.

The evening begins at 4pm with stalls, raffle, food, drink and a chance to meet the cats at the centre who are looking for homes.

For more details, telephone the centre on 01656 724396 - see our advertisement in this week's What's On pages.

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New business extension stays in the family...

EDWARDS Machinery Ltd is located on Bridgend Industrial Estate on the same site as Glamorgan Farm Supplies Ltd.

Established just over six years ago and primarily dealing with buying and selling farm machinery, Edwards Machinery Ltd covers the south Wales area and has various franchises, including Kverneland, Bailey Trailers, Major, Protech, Fleming, Opico, Nugent and

many more. After being asked by (father) Stewart Edwards of GFS, to come and help manage the fast-growing family business, Robbie Edwards introduced machinery sales. Having a sound knowledge of tractors, farm machinery and customer requirements, linked with a background in farming, Robbie has enabled the business to develop into the success it is today.

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Point to Point season starts

THE Glamorgan Hunt will be holding its annual Point-to-Point steeplechases at Uplands Farm, Ystradowen, on Saturday, March 27 (first race at 1pm).

A regular highlight of the spring sporting calendar, the event gives

the community a chance to get close up and personal with the horses, as they thunder past the public enclosures, with the hilltop setting giving panoramic views of both the action and the spectacular Vale countryside.

All children under-16 get in free, and with car and driver starting at £10, plus £5 per extra adult, it offers fantastic value for a family day.

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Your dog will stay with us in our home as part of the family. Providing a home from home environment including plenty of walks.

For all our services pick up and drop off can be arranged. Please contact us for prices and availability.
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www.fur-kids.co.uk

National Pet Month promotes more responsible ownership

NATIONAL Pet Month is celebrating its 21st birthday of promoting 'pets and people' from April 3-May 3.

Thousands of people will be celebrating life with their pets at hundreds of events around the country.

A modern vets' practice - with traditional values

With 15 vets and a large number of qualified support staff Maes Glas are able to help your pets through sickness and health.

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www.maesglasveterinarygroup.co.uk

While many of these events will raise funds for local animal charities, National Pet Month is not just about fundraising. It is also all about raising awareness of how pets make people's lives better, and how we can repay the pets we love by really looking after them responsibly.

Details of how to join in and become a supporter - whether by setting up an event yourself or to see what's on in your area, are on the website www.nationalpetmonth.org.uk

Last year saw National Pet Month become the most successful to date with well over 450 events, and at least £64,500 raised for more than 35 animal charities.

Phil Sketchley, chairman of NPM, said: "National Pet Month is an opportunity for us all to learn more about responsible pet care so we can enjoy our pets for many years to come."

"By following our 10 top tips, our animals will enjoy healthier and longer lives."

10 TOP TIPS!

- 1 Think carefully before getting a pet and learn about its special requirements.
- 2 Ensure your pet is sociable and well-trained.
- 3 Provide a nutritious and well-balanced diet.
- 4 Provide suitable housing and bedding.
- 5 Clean up after your pet and worm it regularly.
- 6 Protect against disease. Your vet can provide you with advice.
- 7 Prevent unwanted litters and neuter your pet when appropriate.
- 8 Groom your pet regularly.
- 9 Control your pet and ensure it is properly identified.
- 10 Take out pet insurance for dogs, cats, rabbits and horses to cover against unexpected veterinary fees and third party liability.

Holiday! What about the pets?

ARE you a pet owner? Are there times when you need help with your pet? Do you need your dog walked?

When you go on holiday, does your dog or cat still have a warm place to sleep and lots of love?

It may be you don't want to use a boarding kennel, or you simply need your cats fed (and cuddled) while you are away.

For the past 10 years, we have been providing pet owners across south Wales with a complete pet care service including:

- Home boarding for dogs, with licensed, insured and police-checked staff;
 - Dog walking;
 - Home visiting;
 - House sitting;
 - Dog grooming.
- As one of our clients put it: "Care 4 Pets is fab!"

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Gardens open

THE latest edition of the Glamorgan county leaflet, now available at libraries, tourist information centres, garden centres, and Marie Curie shops, identifies gardens open to the public for charity this year as part of the National Gardens Scheme (NGS).

All gardens listed in county leaflets are also published in The National Gardens Scheme's 'Yellow Book', featuring around 3,700 gardens open to the public for charity.

It is available now from bookshops or direct through the NGS website www.ngs.org.uk

Another innovation comes out of the blue...

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Barry swimmers set new standards in long-distance 'one-hour' challenge event

RECENTLY, 42 swimmers from Barry Amateur Swimming Club took part in the one hour postal swim, organised by the British Long Distance Swimming Association, at Barry Leisure.

The aim of the event is to see how far the swimmers can swim in one hour, and the swimming club uses this event as a marker every year to see how the swimmers are improving with their stamina and swimming abilities.

This year, as in the past, they surpassed themselves with swimmers from as young as seven taking part.

The top swimmer this year was Lauren Williamson (aged 12) who swam a total of 4,275 metres (171 lengths). This was an improvement on last year's swim by 150 metres.

The top male swim-



Back row:
Emily Nicholls, Jonathan Bowden, Ffion Goodland.
Front row: Shaun Bowden and Samuel Smith.

mer was Kieran Knowles (aged 13) who swam a distance of 3,800 metres (152 lengths). This was also a massive improvement on last year's swim when he completed 109 lengths.

Our two youngest swimmers also did well. Tom Insole (aged seven) swam a distance of 1,825 metres (73 lengths) and Ffion McCulloch also aged seven, swimming

the event for the second time, swam 1,950 metres (78 lengths).

Well done to both of the swimmers – even adults would struggle to swim that distance.

Brothers Shaun and Jonathan Bowden both improved their distance on last year. Shaun (aged nine) improved his distance by 575 metres, swimming a total distance of 3,225 metres (129 lengths). Jonathan (aged 12) swam the same distance as his younger brother and also improved his distance on last year by 500 metres (20 lengths).

Not to be outdone by the brothers, sisters Grace and Olivia Insole (Tom Insole's older sisters) also improved their distances – Grace (aged nine) by 650 metres, swimming 2,700 metres, and Olivia (aged 12) by 200 metres, swimming

2,925 metres.

Other swimmers who made large improvements on their distance from last year were Georgia Looker (aged 12) completing a distance of 3,575 metres, an improvement of 600 metres (24 lengths).

Emily Nicholls (aged 12) improved by 23 lengths, swimming a distance of 3,300 metres this year. Kate Lewis (aged 14) swam a distance of 3,573 metres (157 lengths). Ffion Goodland (aged 12) improved by 23 lengths, which is 575 metres, to swim 3,250 metres.

The boys who made large improvements were James Hamer (aged nine) who swam 2,900 metres (116 lengths), which was an improvement of 500 metres on last year. Samuel Smith (aged 9) improved by 11 lengths to swim a distance of 2,725 metres this year.

We will find out in June/July how the swimmers did countrywide. Last year, Lauren Williamson took first place in her age group, so looking at the distance she swam this year she should still hold this position.

Well done to everyone who took part in this event and a big thank you to everyone who helped with the event to make it such a success.

TW

PACT meetings

CASTLELAND PACT, Civic Offices, Holton Road, March 29, at 7pm.
ILLTYD PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel, March 30, at 7pm.
BARUC PACT, St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, March 30, at 7.15pm.
WENVOE PACT, Wenvoe Community Hall, March 29, at 7pm.
RHOOSE PACT, Celtic Way Community Centre, March 30, at 7pm.

WE welcome your news.
Email: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

Damon and Greengrass' Green Zone is a most worthwhile place to be!

IN 2002, Matt Damon's career appeared to be sinking fast: Having started strongly with turns in *Good Will Hunting* (which he co-wrote with Ben Affleck) and *Saving Private Ryan*, a succession of poorly-received films such as *All The Pretty Horses* and *The Legend of Bagger Vance* had made his stock slide.

When delays bedevilled his next film, it seemed like Damon might vanish from the scene, but that film was *The Bourne Identity*, a work which revived his career and set him on a path to greater success.

The *Bourne* franchise sprouted two further films, directed by Paul Greengrass, which raised his stock even further, and the pair team up again for the Iraq-set thriller, *Green Zone*.

Damon plays Roy Miller, an army officer who, along with his team, is sent to find 'weapons of mass destruction' in Iraq; but when they find nothing, and the validity of the intelligence they received is questioned, Miller is thrown head-first into a maelstrom of truths, counter-truths and the political impact of war...

While thoroughly deserved, it was somewhat of a surprise to see *The Hurt Locker* walk away with best picture at the Academy Awards; after all, previous films that have attempted to deal with the situations in Iraq and Afghanistan have received short shrift from audiences and, in some cases, critics.

Throwing their hats into the ring against this backdrop is a bold move from director Paul Greengrass and Matt Damon, but one that pays off in spades, as *Green Zone* is part-blockbuster, part-thriller,

part-treatise on the value of war, but wholly exciting, captivating and watchable.

While the selling point for the masses is no doubt 'Bourne goes to Iraq', those expecting *Green Zone* to provide more of the same of that franchise will be left empty; this is no mere retrained for director and star.

Instead, they serve up a film that will appeal to the brain as much as it does to the lust for explosions and shoot-outs; and while it may wear its politics on its sleeve, it never feels preachy or sanctimonious, allowing the viewer to be drawn into the unwieldy web of the story.

Based on the book *Life in the Emerald City*, screenwriter Brian Helgeland takes only the merest of meat from that story, and instead constructs a thriller with a side order of politics.

Helgeland's record as a screenwriter is pretty good, and *Green Zone* can be chalked up as another success, the story taut and engaging, querying the political morals of those in positions of power and the importance of skewering the truth to fit your aims, no matter how clandestine it may be.

It is the sort of territory that Paul Greengrass thrives on as a director. His background in documentary and work away from the *Bourne* franchise - TV's *Sunday Bloody Sunday* and *United 93* - carries a political feel that he brings to the forefront here.

While he certainly doesn't scrimp on action and spectacle, he marries it to Helgeland's script to provide a blockbuster with brains that feels like perhaps the first truly substantial fare of the year thus far.

His direction follows the docu-realism template that he has honed throughout his work, but given the subject matter it brings a bristling reality to proceedings, the

hand-held, shaky camerawork propelling you headlong into the story.

While he may err on the side of an over-reliance on quick cuts and edits, there is no arguing about his skill as a director, and his ability to handle both the narrative and the spectacle, and marry them together so successfully, does his reputation no harm at all.

Another who does no harm to his reputation is Matt Damon, who is developing into the type of all-round actor that cinema needs more of.

Fresh from his nuanced turn in last month's *Invictus*, this sees Damon arguably on more familiar territory, yet he refuses to resort to the characters he has played previously.

His Roy Miller is no stealthy, Bourne-like spy; instead Damon sticks to reality, the character forced to question his moral compass and the decisions he makes.

It is another turn that merely enhances Damon's already sterling reputation, and one that anchors the film in the reality it was aiming for.

Surrounding Damon are actors who add to the quality on show. Greg Kinnear does slimy and shady better than most; and here as bureaucrat whose power is being used to the advantage of America, he is superb, offering anything but a clear cut villain, merely a man who believes what he is doing is right and that the end justifies the means.

Brendan Gleeson similarly offers clout as a CIA intelligence officer who hopes that Miller can uncover what is going on, while the argu-

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

ment that any film featuring Jason Isaacs with a handlebar moustache will be certifiably superb is realised here, and while the actor doesn't quite get the meatiest of parts, he fills it out superbly, making for a uniformly excellent cast.

If *Green Zone* has a flaw it is only that the constant dizzying camerawork and fast pace of the film occasionally means the plot takes a back seat to the pyrotechnics and performances within.

However, the thread of the story is never lost, and is a small complaint is what is a thoroughly excellent piece of work.

VERDICT - A high-octane thriller with a pace that never lets up, *Green Zone* is a masterful piece of work from director Paul Greengrass.

With the right mix of spectacle and intelligence, plus superb performances from Matt Damon and an excellent cast, *Green Zone* hits all the right spots. *Essential viewing.*

Barry pace is just too much for Sully RFC

OLD rivalries were renewed as Barry Seconds took on local adversaries Sully RFC on a dry, wintry afternoon.

The away side started brightly and from a scrum, John Dimond emerged with the ball and gave quick ball to Ashley Adams, who continued his try-scoring form with a solo effort from half-way, after side-stepping his opposite number. The conversion was a formality for the reliable boot of Adam Lee.

With debutant Hywel Graham dictating traffic at stand-off, Barry were in the ascendancy. Two more penalties, both converted by Lee, put the away side two scores clear.

The home side, however, were determined not to be run over. With a formidable pack that has caused Barry problems before, they were winning the game in the contact area. At a scrum in the Barry 22, pressure from the home side finally resulted in a converted try.

SULLY RFC BARRY 2nd XV

7
41

Barry came straight back. Realising the speed of Adams is key, the ball was spread out to him once more. His chip and chase was cut short by a cunning block, but Joel Williams was on hand to collect the loose ball and ground his second try in as many games. Lee converted comfortably.

The away side now had the momentum behind them and went for the kill. A fine break by Grantley Harris saw him offload perfectly to leading try-scorer Luke Bounds, who raced over for another converted try.

While the scoreboard might suggest this was an easy ride for Barry, this was not the case on the pitch, as Sully dominated the scrums and contact area.

In response, team manager Charlie Chucas decided to bring on returning prop James Sullivan, and his extra bulk turned the tide almost immediately.

One huge hit in the corner signalled his intentions, and that, together with some superb tackling by Lloyd Dutton, kept the home side away from the try line, despite good possession.

After Grantley Harris had snuffed out any chance of a second half comeback with an interception try, converted by Graham, Sully had an excellent chance to score, but were foiled by substitute full-back Richie Williams' man-and-ball tackle.

Barry continued to threaten, with the three-man break of Bounds, Williams and Chow looking dangerous on the left, but it was left to Alex Evans on the other wing to chase down a Gary Owen kick to ground in the corner.

Graham's expert conversion from a tight angle proved to be the last kick of the game.

KC

Another great GEM stamp competition!

A GARDEN dedicated to Welsh naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace proved to be the perfect backdrop for the launch of Royal Mail stamps celebrating the Royal Society.

Readers of The Glamorgan GEM can win themselves a set of these special presentation packs in this month's Royal Mail stamp competition.

The National Botanic Garden of Wales in Carmarthen has already celebrated the Welsh scientist, famous for being the co-author of Charles

Darwin's original publication of the Theory of Evolution.

All you have to do to enter the competition is answer the following question:

Who came up with the Theory of Evolution: A Charles Darwin B Charles Dance C Prince Charles?

Send your entries, marked 'Royal Society Stamps Competition', to The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, no later than Friday, March 26.

Judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into - Good luck!

Benji wants a good home

The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

BENJI is a two-year-old terrier described by the centre as a strong-minded and determined little dog used to getting his own way.

"He needs confident and consistent handling as he will try to take advantage once he has found his feet in the home. He's house-trained and fine to be left for a couple of hours. He's active, gets on well with other dogs and enjoys playing with toys."

"Benji likes nothing more than digging and playing with our agility equipment."

Type of home needed:



Benji.

He needs an experienced owner and an adult-only home. He can live with other dogs. He will suit a rural environment where he can spend his day out and about with his owner.

Out and About with The GEM

Women's Day display in Barry



ABOVE, from left: Vale Council arts development officer Tracey Harding; Women's Arts development officer Emily Hinshel-Wood; Professor Teresa Rees; cellist Lucy O'Connor; Women's Arts development manager Rebecca Spooner; Iron Maidens' Dilys Jackson, and Women's Arts Chair Gwyneth Price.

AS part of celebrations for International Women's Day on March 8, Art Central, at Barry town hall, paid host to nearly 100 guests at the official opening of the Women's Arts Association and Iron Maidens exhibition.

It was opened by Professor Teresa Rees, from the Cardiff Wales.

MUSIC EVENING

CHANGING Scene Dance Company hold 'An Evening at Home' with a collection of modern music, song and dance at 7pm in Barry Arts Centre, Winston Road, Barry, from March 25-27.

Tickets £6, can be pre-booked on 029 2063 3217 or 01446 739702.

New members welcome when the new term commences on April 9.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 609.

● £4,500: 728415.
● £2,000: 401689.
● £10: 828797:
314738: 637881:
814503: 393537:
809776: 112186:
407561: 158361:
268808: 410940:
306001: 588651:
706576: 358970:
872308: 501419:
356787: 861943:
769417.

Book winners

THE winners of our recent competition in conjunction with World Book Day were:

Steve Thomas, Dinas Powys and Mr D Johns, Litchard (adult prizes); and Miss PW Jones, Cowbridge and Jessica Cooper, Llantwit Major (children's prizes).

Congratulations to you all!

Guides stamps winners

THE winners of a presentation pack of girl-guiding stamps are:

Anne Baxter, St Athan; Miss Edna Ann James, Ogmere Vale; Mr A Grisdale, Barry; Mrs C Le Breunly; C Clancy, Bridgend; Alice Phillips, Penarth; Jocelyn James, Boverton; D Griffiths, Cardiff; Clara Thomas, Nottage; P Huish, Cowbridge; Mrs ER Eskins, Barry; Mr EW Powell, Pencoeed; Mr Roy Williams, Llanblethian; George Jeffery, Wick; Natalie Canning, St Brides Major; Mrs DJ Lark, Barry; Joan Francis, Bridgend; C Spear, Penarth; Mrs D Overly, Boverton; DP Lewis, St Brides Major.

Quiz in the park

VICTORIA PARK, Cadoxton is hosting an 'Easter Egg Quiz' on Good Friday, April 2 from 11am-12noon.

Quiz sheets will be available from the park office, near the bowling green, and park manager Jon Greatrex, said: "If you are quick on your feet, and get all the answers right, you can win a chocolate Easter egg."

"There are more than 30 eggs to be won, so if you like chocolate, we 'eggspect' to see you on Good Friday."

Will you take the mountain challenge for Marie Curie?

THE Marie Curie Cancer Care charity is urgently seeking volunteers prepared to lace up their walking boots and climb a mountain, to raise money to help the terminally ill.

Every year, the charity which runs the hospice in Penarth, raises thousands of pounds thanks to people who take on the UK Mountain Challenge. In Wales, the target is to reach the 3,560 ft peak of Snowdon via the Llanberis path – a walk of six to nine hours.

"There are two dates this year when walkers can take on the Snowdon challenge – Sunday, June 6 and Saturday, October 2," explained Marie Curie fundraising manager, Jane Griffiths.

"Everyone taking part is asked to pay a £10 registration fee and then raise

at least £100 in sponsorship."

The charity provides advice on sponsorship, training and equipment, as well as support on the day, a complimentary t-shirt and a certificate of achievement.

All the money raised is used to provide free

home nursing for the terminally ill and support for their families.

For more information on Marie Curie's mountain challenges and other fundraising events go to www.mariecurie.org.uk/uktreks or contact Jane on 01792 461435.

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- Phone 01656 724 396 for details

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Saturday 27th March
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Palmerston Primary's patriotic pupils



IT was a busy Welsh Saint's Day at Palmerston Primary School, as the children took part in a range of traditional activities.

Pupils from year-4 were asked to draw a picture of a miner, and the winners are pictured (above).

Pictured (right) are the year-1 competition winners, who had to draw a Welsh flag.

There was, of course, a competition to find who would be crowned as best poet, and sitting (below) in his Bardic Chair, is the winner of the Bardic poem, Joshua Morris.

At the foot of the page (left) in traditional Welsh costume, are brothers Bradley and Gregory James.



Reception children drew fantastic pictures of the vegetables found in 'Cawl'.



ABOVE: Palmerston's year-5 winners of the 'design a Welsh hat, mask or puppet' competition.

Barry Island Primary eisteddfod



ABOVE, RIGHT and BELOW: Children at Barry Island Primary had a great day when they held their eisteddfod, with the added attraction of making their own chocolate brownies!



Fine win for Sully Youth

VICTORY at last! Sully Sports Youth have been so close in recent matches, and this was their first home game for two months, after the reverse fixture at Llandaff North was lost by a single try.

A penalty kick in the opening minute put the Sports in the opposition 22 and a textbook lineout with a driving maul, superbly controlled by Josh Westall, secured his first try for the Sports.

Buoyed by this, the Sports looked initially as if they would control the

game, but a number of missed opportunities gave the supporters a growing sense of déjà vu. Llandaff North started to find their feet, but with ferocious tackling from H Moyle and M Porter, assisted by stand-in scrum-half and outside-half (S Adamson and C McKinnon respectively), they managed to stop them gaining any real momentum.

However, North managed to level the score against the run of play just before half-time. In the second half, the Sully forwards put together a number of

phases, sucking in defenders before the ball went wide, allowing Alsop to crash over and Adamson to convert. The final five minutes were enthralling, with North pushing for a draw. However, the Sports' defence held firm. **Final score 12-5.**

Congratulations to the Sports. It has been a long time coming. Thanks to Llandaff North for such a spirited performance.

Well done to the seniors who continued their successful season with a win against Ynys Owen 28-10.



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£97,950



Scott Close, St Athan

Mid Terrace House. 3 Bedrooms, 1 Reception, Family Kitchen/Diner. 1st Floor Bathroom. Gas Fired Heating & Double Glazed Parking Space, Viewing Rec. Call Simon 01446 791963

£135,000



Eagleswell Road, Llantwit Major

Semi Detached house. 3 Bedrooms. Close to Local Primary School. UPVC DG. Gas CH. Outbuilding. Westerly Rear Garden. Call Simon 01446 791963

£149,995



Fitzhamon Avenue, Llantwit Major

Traditional family house. 3 beds. Conservatory, Kitchen/Diner. UPVC windows & Doors. GCH with Combi. Southerly landscaped rear. Call Simon 01446 791963

£195,000



Carmarthen Close, Llantwit Major
Detached Family Home. 3 Bedrooms. Well presented. Family Kitchen/Diner. Gas fired heating. Double glazed. Off road parking. Internal Viewing Rec. Call Simon 01446 791963

NEW

£199,995



Church Meadow, Llantwit Major
Detached Family Home. 4 Bedrooms, 2 Reception. Cul de Sac Location. Well Appointed Bathroom. Gas Fired Heating. Double Glazed. Garage. Viewing Recommended. Call Simon 01446 791963

£225,000



Glenn Cottage, Llanwit Major
Period 2 bedroom cottage. Historic location. 2 reception rooms. Kitchen/breakfast. Bathroom & ensuite. Private cottage garden. Call Simon 01446 791963

£255,500



Newbarn Holdings, Flemington
Semi detached house. 2 bedrooms & 2 reception rooms. Kitchen with french patio doors. Conservatory. Family bathroom. Gas fired heating. Double glazed. Open countryside views. Call Simon 01446 791963

£315,000



Thistle Cottage, St Athan
Well appointed. 3 bedrooms. Classic cottage style. Detached family home. Gas Fired heating. Double glazed. Immediate possession available. Call Simon 01446 791963

NEW PRICE

£84,950



Deans Court, Romily Road, Rhose
1ST Floor flat (1 of 6), 2 beds, living room, sep. kitchen/breakfast room, shower room, upvc dg, electric heating, communal gardens & parking. Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NO CHAIN

£129,950



Fonnon Park Road, Rhose
3 bed semi detached house, through lounge, modern fitted kitchen, modern fitted bathroom, gas ch, upvc dg, gardens & garage. Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£159,950



Readers Way, Rhose
3 bed superbly presented semi, lounge/dining room, 1st floor bathroom/wc, upvc dg, gas ch, parking, garage, gardens, tucked away & no chain. Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£189,950



Channel Close, Rhose
Superb detached house, 3 beds, 2 receptions, kitchen, large utility, refitted bathroom/wc, gas ch, upvc dg, gardens, drive & garage. Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£214,950



Porthkerry Road, Rhose
Semi with panoramic sea views, 4/5 double beds, 2/3 receptions, modern kitchen, lobby, wet room, 1st floor bathroom/wc, gas ch, upvc dg, out-houses, large gardens & good parking. Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£219,950



Maes Lindys, Rhose Point
Detached family home, 4 beds, 2 receptions, kitchen/breakfast room, cloaks, en-suite, bathroom, gas ch, upvc dg, games room, 5-6 car drive & gardens. Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW PRICE

£250,000



Matthew Road, Rhose

Superb detached property, 4 beds, 3 receptions, stunning kitchen, cloaks, en-suite, bathroom, gas ch, upvc dg, no chain, extensive parking & gardens. Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW

£284,950



Porfa Ballas, Rhose Point
Detached with sea views, 4 beds, 3 receptions, kitchen/diner, conservatory, en-suite, cloaks, bathroom, gas ch, upvc dg, detached double garage, garden & large plot. Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW

£317,500



Glyn Y Gog, Rhose Point
Superb detached home, 5 double beds, 2 receptions, fully fitted kitchen, bathroom, 2 en-suites, gas ch, upvc dg, 4 car drive, double garage & gardens. Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW

£107,500



Riverside Place, Barry
Mid Terrace with living room/diner, 3 Bedrooms, fitted kitchen and bathroom. UPVC DG, Gas CH. Enclosed Rear Garden. No Chain. Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW

£114,950



Meadow View, Barry
Stunning semi with lounge, conservatory, superb fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms. 1st floor bathroom, Gas CH, UPVC DG, Parking Space and rear garden with workshop. Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW WEST END

£129,950



Princes Street, Barry
Traditional Terrace with thru lounge, fitted kitchen and bathroom, 3 Bedrooms. Gas CH, UPVC DG. Rear Garden and informal loft. No Chain. Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW PRICE

£134,950



Norwood Crescent, Barry
Semi with extending potential. 2 Receptions, 3 Bedrooms, kitchen and refitted bathroom. Gas CH(Combi), UPVC DG, Large Gardens and car hardstand. Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£149,950



Cornwall Rise, Barry
Superb semi with 2 receptions, 3 bedrooms, refitted kitchen, cloaks/wc and additional shower room. GAS CH, UPVC DG, Parking, Gardens and Garage. Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW

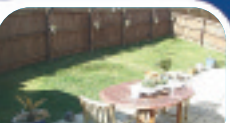
£144,950



Priory Gardens, Barry
Attractive link detached with Lounge, Diner, refitted kitchen, utility and 3 bedrooms. Gas CH, UPVC DG, and 1st floor bathroom. Garage, Drive and Gardens. Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW

£214,950



Heol Gwerthdy, Barry

Fabulous Modern Detached with 2 Receptions, 4 Bedrooms, kitchen/breakfast room, bathroom/Cloaks/En-Suite. Gas CH, Mostly UPVC DG and Garage with 5 Car Drive. Private Gardens from behind. Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW PRICE

£220,000



Churchfields, Barry
Super Extended Detached with 2 Receptions, 5 Bedrooms and large kitchen/diner. Refitted En-Suite and Bathroom. Gas CH, UPVC DG, Garage and 4 Car Drive. Gardens. Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW PRICE

£279,950



Highlight Lane, Barry
Detached family house in sought after location. Accommodation comprises 3 Receptions, 4 Bedrooms, Conservatory and kitchen/breakfast room. Refitted bathroom/shower, Gas CH, UPVC DG, Garage and double drive carport. Gardens. Call Andrew on 01446 713001

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 24 March 2010

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at
HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

or apply in writing to:

Vale of Glamorgan Council

Legal, Public Protection and Housing Department

Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or

Newydd Housing Association

121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

Vale of Glamorgan Council Hafod Housing Association Newydd Housing Association United Welsh Wales and West Housing Association

ANEURIN ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 200624

Suitable for a family

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £85.39 per week including water charges

CWRT MELIN Y RHOS, BARRY (2)

H4U Reference 1038789
Suit. for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets

- (2) One-bedroom flats
- First and second floors
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal entrance
- Parking

Rent £68.88 per week including service charges

GWYN JAMES COURT, PENARTH

H4U reference 967973
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets

- Studio apartment
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden and parking

Rent £96.81 per week including service, water and heating charges

HERITAGE DRIVE, BARRY

H4U reference 1014386
Suitable for a family – adapted property

- Two bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Disabled shower
- Front ramp
- Enclosed rear garden

Rent £72.88 per week including service charges

PENDINE CLOSE, BARRY (2)

H4U Reference 219821
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family – no pets

- (2) Two bedroom flats
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £70.59 per week including service charges

TENSING TERRACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 225868
Suitable for a single person or couple

- One bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £64.10 per week including service charges

FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Colombus Close	94	Gold	04/01/10
Thomas Close	27	Silver	11/11/09

Additional **Feedback** will appear in the next Homes4U advert

**BRECON COURT, BARRY (2)**

H4U Reference 202397
Suit. for a single person or couple over 60 – no pets

- (2) One-bedroom flats
- Ground & first floors (ramp)
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £76.33 per week inc. alarm and service charges

COPPERFIELD COURT, BARRY (2)

H4U reference 970229
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets

- (2) One bedroom flats
- Ground floor from rear/first floor from car park
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking

Rent £67.95 per week including service charges

COYCHURCH RISE, BARRY

H4U Reference
Suitable for a family

- Three-bed bungalow
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £83.14 per week including water charges

GWENOG COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 210849
Suitable for a single person or couple over 60

- One-bedroom flat (FF)
- Lift & level access shower
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden and alarm

Rent £98.31 per week inc. service and alarm charges

DYLAN CRESCENT, BARRY (2)

H4U Reference 208250
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family – no pets

- (2) One bedroom flats
- Ground and first floors
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £68.45 per week including service charges

ELIZABETH AVENUE, BARRY

H4U Reference 208339
Suitable for families

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £83.77 per week including water charges

HANOVER COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1039721
Couple preferred or single person over 60 (55 with medical need)

- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Scheme Manger/alarm

Rent £85.83 per week including service charge

HANOVER COURT, DINAS POWYS (2)

H4U Reference 1039447
Suitable for a single person or couple over 60 (55 with medical need)

- (2) One-bedroom flats
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Scheme Manger/alarm

Rent £95.04 per week including service charge

JENNER ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 213396
Suitable for a single person or couple

- One bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £66.83 per week including service charges

MEIRION CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 216087
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family – no pets

- Two bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £68.18 per week including service charges

OAK COURT, PENARTH – VISIT OUR OPEN DAY

H4U Reference 979031
Suitable for a single person over 60 (55 with medical need)

- One-bedroom flats
- First floor (with lift)
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £93.17 per week including service and alarm charges

25 March 2010

10:00am - 2:00pm

Light refreshments and show flat available

Call 029 2070 1661 for further information

PENDINE CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 219950
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55

- One-bed bungalow
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £76.40 per week including water and alarm charges

PLASSEY HOUSE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 24133
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets

- Studio apartment
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £74.21 per week including service and alarm charges

PONTALUN CLOSE, BARRY (2)

H4U Reference 221458
Suit. for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets

- (2) One-bedroom flats
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £71.57 per week including service charges

THOMPSON STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 1039856
Suitable for a single person over 40 (or person with mobility problems)

- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing

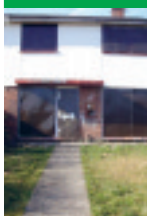
Rent £68.90 per week including service charge

WILLIAMS CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U Reference 228224
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family – no pets

- Two bedroom flat
- Second floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £70.87 per week including service charges

WESTBURY CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 227921
Suitable for a family

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £81.85 per week including water charges

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes. When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.

Situations Vacant

Family Notices

Wanted

Vacancies for LEA Governors

Applications are invited from those wishing to be considered by the appropriate Advisory Panel for the current Governor vacancies. The Code of Practice on LEA-School Relations states that LEA governors should be appointed on the basis of the skills and experience that they could bring to a school's governing body and the Council's appointment process reflects this requirement as well as the following criteria. Governing bodies need people who:-

- are committed to regular attendance at meetings (usually at least six per academic year);
- have a genuine desire to help improve school standards in partnership with the staff;
- have an interest in and knowledge of the community that the school serves;
- have a knowledge of modern education issues; and
- are committed to attend governor training courses provided by the LEA to update their skills and knowledge to enhance their ability and effectiveness as a governor.

Currently there are vacancies at the following schools:-

Bake Cottage Nursery	Llananner C/W Primary
Cadarn Nursery	Palmerston Primary
Cogan Nursery	St Andrew's C/W Primary
Cogan Primary	St Helen's R/C Junior
Gladstone Primary	St Joseph's R/C Primary
Green's C/W Primary	St Nicholas C/W Primary
Holice Primary	Ysgol Gwaun y Nant

Please note that the meetings of Welsh Medium Schools are not all conducted in Welsh, and that where they are, translation facilities are provided.

If you feel that you can fulfil the above criteria and are interested in being considered as an LEA governor at one of the above schools please contact Jeremy Morgan on 01446 709108 (direct line) for an application form. Closing date for the receipt of completed application forms is 15 April 2010. Thursday 15 April 2010.

Swyddi i Lywodraethwyr AALL

Gwahoddiir cefnwrdd oddi verth y rhai a hoffai gael eu hystyried gan y Panel Ymgynghoriad priodol ar gyfer y swyddi presennol i Lywodraethwyr. Yn ôl y Codi Ymarfer sy'n rheoli cwylltadau rhwng Awdurdodau Adlyng Lleol ac Ysgolion, dyfod penodi lywodraethwyr AALL ar sail y sgiliau a'r profiad sydd ganddynt i'w cynnig i gyfrif lywodraethol ysgolion, ac mae proses benodi? Cyngor yn adnysu'r gofyn hwn yn ogystal â'r meini prawf canlynol. Mae ar gyfer lywodraethol angen pobl sydd:-

- vedi ymwyb i'w hysychu cyfarbyddi yn rhwydd (sef o laif drwy dylafarbitio blyddyn academaidd fel arall);
- yn wirioneddol swyddus i helpu i godi safonau ysgolion drwy gydweithio â'r staff;
- yn ymddorion yn y gymuned y mae'r ysgol yn ei gwasanaethu ac yn gwybodi rhywber amodau;
- yn gyfarwydd i'w hysychu adlyng cyfnewt; ac yd yd AALL yn eu cynnig i lywodraethwyr a'r meini prawf hyn yn sgiliau ac ehangu eu gwybodaeth at ddibenion cyfnewt fel y bont ym hwy a'i at eflaithol yn eu swyddi.

Mae swyddi ar gael i lywodraethwyr ar hyn o bryd yn yr ysgolion canlynol:-

Ysgol Feithrin Bake Cottage	Ysgol Gynradd yr Eglwys yng Nghyrru Llananner
Ysgol Feithrin Tregatwg	Ysgol Gynradd Palmerston
Ysgol Feithrin Cogan	Ysgol Gynradd yr Eglwys yng Nghyrru Saint Andrew
Ysgol Gynradd Cogan	Ysgol Plant Iau y Sancti Helen
Ysgol Gynradd Gladstone	Ysgol Gynradd Saint Joseph
Ysgol Gynradd yr Eglwys yng Nghyrru Green's	Ysgol Gynradd yr Eglwys yng Nghyrru Saint Nicholas
Ysgol Gynradd Holice	Ysgol Gwaun y Nant

Sylwch na fydd yr Ysgolion Cynradd yn cynnal eu holl gyfarbyddi yn Gymraeg a phan fydd hynny'n digwydd bydd cyfnewtiau cyfnewtiau ar gael.

Os teimlech ydych chi fod chi'n meini prawf uchod ac yr hoffech gael eich hystyried ar gyfer swyddi lywodraethwyr AALL yn un o'r ysgolion uchod, ffonwch Jeremy Morgan on 01446 709108 (linell uniongyrchol) a gofynnwch am ffurflen gais. Dydd Iau 15 Ebrill 2010 orbyn canol dyddi tan bellaf y'r dyddiad oau ar gyfer derbyn ffurflen gais wedi'u cwblhau.

SMITH Howard

Peacefully on March 12, at Singleton Hospital, Swansea, Howard, formerly of Boverton, devoted husband of the late Winnie, precious father of Pauline and the late Gareth. Dearly loved by Mervyn and Wendy and his grand and great-grandchildren. Public funeral to be held on Saturday, March 20 at Bethel Baptist Church, Llantwit Major at 10.45am followed by interment at Boverton Road Cemetery at 12.00 noon.

Family flowers only, donations if desired may be made payable to Cancer Research (cheques only please) c/o Paul Deans of Ink & Deans, privately owned Funeral Directors, 2 Kilby Court, Loughor, Swansea, SA4 6RQ, telephone 01792 897710.

WILLIAMS Elis Rose

Sadly passed away on the 7th March aged 16 months. Cherished daughter of Alun and Vikki and sister to Rhidian and Yvie. Funeral Friday, 19th March, 1pm, Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. No black, please wear something pink. Donations in lieu of flowers to Y Bont Nursery, 01656 646013. Following the service you are invited to St Athan Golf Club.

PRICE Barbara

Loving mother, grandmother and friend to all, passed away peacefully at her home in Llantwit Major on March 12. A celebration service for Barbara's life will be held in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major at 2.00pm on Tuesday March 23, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm. No black, no flowers, no tears! Donations to RNLI or Help for Heroes c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only). All enquiries to WA Brown & Son, Llantwit Major on Tel: 01446 792489

FOREVER IN OUR THOUGHTS

STEPHEN Raymond James

Debbie, Mark and Nicola would like to thank all who attended the funeral and for the many cards and messages of sympathy they have received. Special thanks to Rev Canon David Brunning for the service and to W A Brown & Son for the funeral arrangements. Also thanks to all who have made donations to the Parkinson Disease Society or the Stroke Association.

Thank You

Margaret & Ken WOLDRIDGE

would like to thank family and friends who attended their golden wedding anniversary party.

Our special thanks to all of those who organised such a wonderful day for us.

The gifts and cards were fantastic!

Public Notices

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 IN BANKRUPTCY BRIDGEND COUNTY COURT

No. 74 of 2004 RE: BRIAN KURT I intend to pay within four months from 21 April 2010 being the last day for proving the first and final dividend of 0.58 p/c.

Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must do so by 21 April 2010 otherwise they will be excluded from the dividend. The required proof of debt form is available on the Insolvency Service website: www.insolvency.gov.uk, select 'Forms' and then form 6.37. Alternatively you can contact my office at 2nd Floor, Sunley House, Bedford Park, CROYDON, CRO 1TX telephone 02088 670017 to supply a form.

Mr P Cragg Official Receiver and Trustee

Gareth Jones are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £100,500 for 22 Dudley Place, Barry CF62 7HZ. Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Gareth Jones, 85 High Street, Barry CF62 7DX - 01446 744812 before exchange of contracts.

PUBLIC NOTICE By order of the mortgagee in possession we would advise that an offer of £67,500 has been received for the property 6 Adare Street, Ogmore Vale, CF32 7HF. Any persons wishing to make an increased offer should notify the agents Brighter Moves Estate Agents Tel: 01656 655936 of their best and final offer

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CALL: 01446 701707

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Send to: Dragon's Treasure House PO BOX 81, Llantwit Major, Vale of Glamorgan CF719BR
01446 796100 or call in at Gift Gallery, Commercial St, Llantwit Major, 01446 795454.

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£6.75 per gram - 9 carat
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Trade Approved Scales
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Property

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Two bed house
Close to town centre.
Fully furnished.
Tel: 07050 050180

ROOMS TO LET WEST END BARRY

Large House
Rooms from £65 pw (fully inclusive)
Furnished/Unfurnished
Communal lounge, kitchen & dining room.
Bond & References Required
Tel. 07946 190706

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Up to £100 paid on collection, for scrap, MOT failures, and tax expired vehicles. Also body shells and scrap metals collected. No wheels, no problem.
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07971 648596

All MoT Failures and No Tax

£75 to £1,000
Collect (any distance).
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07816 172933


The Glamorgan GEM requires a Freelance Typist

to work at short notice on an hourly basis as and when required.
£6 per hour.
The applicant will preferably be conversant with Apple Mac, using Quark Express and Adobe Photoshop. However, training will be provided. Speed and accuracy essential.
Please forward CV for the attention of Clare Gore, The Glamorgan GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL.
Closing date: Friday, 26th March, 2010.

Missing Person - can you help?

We are missing a confident, fun and ambitious communicator to join our sales team.
The reward - a basic salary with up to £30,000 ote
Think you have found them?
Call now on 07825 266660 to claim the reward.

Birthdays



DYLAN LAYZELL
Happy 17th Birthday Babe!
Perhaps the black trackies aren't so bad after all!
Lots of Love ANYSHA x x x



Happy 17th Birthday DYLAN LAYZELL
Have a wonderful day and enjoy driving!
Love from all the Panesar Clan x x x



Full & Part Time GROUNDSMAN REQUIRED
March to November, Company based in Cowbridge. Must be physically fit and strong, reliable, have a background or interest in gardening. Must be over 25 and hold a full clean UK driving licence. Good rates of pay, uniform and training provided.
Email CVs to info@groundcareuk.co.uk

House Clearances

ANDREW WILLIAMS HOUSE CLEARANCES FULL/PART
Over 20 years experience. Sympathetic handling of deceased estates, used by estate agents and solicitors.
01446 409266
07885 251742

Lost & Found

Young Ginger Cat
(no more than a year old) found near Bryn Hafren School.
Please contact 07807 012952

The Glamorgan GEM SUPERB READER HOLIDAY OFFER WIMBLEDON

This is your chance to soak up the unique atmosphere of the world's premier Grand Slam tennis championships, as you wander around the outside courts, savouring those famous strawberries and cream - with perhaps a glass of Champagne or Pimm's - spotting those tennis celebrities and well known personalities, before taking your seat on famous Number One Court, to watch the stars of tomorrow and yesterday compete in the Junior and Veterans' events.

Includes: Return coach travel and Wimbledon transfers
One night's bed and continental breakfast accommodation at a 3-star hotel in the London area
A full day at Wimbledon with a reserved seat on Number One Court
A visit to Wimbler
The services of a Tour Manager throughout

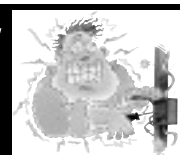
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Cardiff and Vale Schools' success in championships

Report by PETER MORRIS: Pictures by IAN DIXON

PUPILS from Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools district enjoyed their most successful day at the recent Aviva sponsored 48th Welsh Schools' National cross-country championships since the year-7 age group races were added to the programme in 2004.



Sixth former Sabrina James (Cowbridge, 203) was rewarded for her efforts with team silver.

(Cowbridge, 28th) played a vital part in gaining this team success.

In the senior boys' race, Owen Haswell (Stanwell, year-12), who has had a miserable time with injury over the last 12 months, could afford a smile of pleasure as he had enough still left to battle it out with last November's Inter Schools' senior champion, Josh Harries (Penweddig, Dyfed, year-13), and beat him to claim fifth place.

Behind Haswell, Darren Jones (Llantwit, 14th, year-12) and Dominic Farr (Bro Morgannwg, 23rd, year-12) were the third and fourth scorers for a team which finished with bronze medals behind Dyfed and North East Wales.

The only Cardiff & the Vale individual gold medal came in race four, with Raddy year-9 Jack Gooch claiming his first national title in the junior boys (under-15) race, and leading that squad, which included Dafydd George (Bro Morgannwg, 37th, year-8), to another set of bronze medals.

In the two year-7 races, Dyfed athletes produced impressive performances. The Cardiff & the Vale boys' claimed silver medals with Elliot Morris-Devred (Barry, 21st) finishing as sixth counter, while the Cowbridge duo of Nadine James (25th) and Rebecca Thomas (26th) were scorers for the bronze-medal winning girls' team.

The two middle (years 10 and 11) teams had been very weak in 2009, and had not figured in the top three. This year, they bounced back to produce vastly improved showing.

Bethan Daw (St Cyres, year-11) led the girls' home in a well-deserved seventh place with Penllyn resident Caitlin Bryant (The Cathedral, year-10) bouncing back after long-term illness to finish ninth. Both athletes helped the team finish on 85 points, one of the best totals for many years but, sadly, only good enough for second place.

The last race of the

day, for the middle boys, brought a second Cardiff & the Vale team win.

Missing the much-improved Matthew Edwards (Barry Comprehensive, year-10), on a skiing holiday, and with Daniel Lewis (St Cyres, year-11) and Callam Barrie (Barry Comprehensive, year-10) not on top form, the young team, which included Sully resident Rory Heslop (Bro Morgannwg, year-10, 12th) in the scorers, did just enough to defeat Dyfed (88) by two points.

At the end of a long afternoon, the Cardiff & the Vale points total stood at a best-ever score of 111 (out of a maximum possible total of 120), but this was not enough to claim the overall points total from Dyfed, who, with six team successes, had amassed 117 points.

All the pupils, who represented Cardiff & the Vale Schools at these championships, are invited to the annual cross-country presentation evening, which will be held at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry on Tuesday, May 11, starting at 7 pm, to receive their district colours.

Results of Vale pupils: **Senior boys** - 6.4 km - 50 finishers: 5 Owen Haswell (Stanwell) 21:54; 14 Darren Jones (Llantwit) 23:32; 23 Dominic Farr (Bro Morgannwg) 24:15; 38 Joseph Whithmarsh-Knight (Bro Morgannwg) 25:45; 43 William Elliot (Cowbridge) 26:19; 49 Ieuan Donovan (Bro Morgannwg) 28:55.

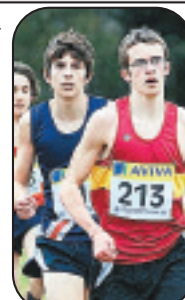
Teams: 3 Cardiff & the Vale 111. **Middle boys** - 5.7 km - 62 finishers: 12 Rory Heslop (Bro Morgannwg) 21:07; 26 Daniel Lewis (St Cyres) 21:56; 36 Rhys George (Bro Morgannwg) 22:33; 46 Callam Barrie (Barry Comp) 23:19.

Teams: 1 Cardiff & the Vale 86. **Junior boys** - 4.3 km - 63 finishers: 37 Dafydd George (Bro Morgannwg) 16:21. Teams: 3 Cardiff & the Vale 107.

Year-7 boys - 2.8 km - 66 finishers: 21 Elliot Morris-Devred (Barry Comp) 11:21; 26 Tom Lucas (Cowbridge) 11:32; 31 Ellis Rosser (Cowbridge) 11:36. Teams: 2 Cardiff & the Vale 87.

Senior girls - 4.8 km - 35 finishers: 28 Sabrina James (Cowbridge) 26:50. Teams: 2 Cardiff & the Vale 141. **Middle girls** - 4.3 km - 59 finishers: 7 Bethan Daw (St Cyres) 17:00; 9 Caitlin Bryant (The Cathedral) 17:17; 23 Fiona Bray (Cowbridge) 18:24; 25 Danielle Green (St Richard Gwyn) 18:47; 38 Eloise Laity (Westbourne) 19:43.

Teams: 2 Cardiff & the



Owen Haswell (Stanwell) on his way to a well-deserved fifth place in the senior boys race, plus team bronze and international selection. Vale 85.

Junior girls - 3.5 km - 74 finishers: 2 Megan Osborne (Llantwit) Major 13:35; 18 Kate Coker (Stanwell) 14:33; 28 Erin Hayes (Llantwit) 14:49; 34 Annabel Curle (Cowbridge) 14:56; 48 Lucy Tarrant (Llantwit) 15:25.

Teams: 1 Cardiff & the Vale 80 15 points.

Year-7 girls - 2.8 km - 69 finishers: 25 Nadine James (Cowbridge) 12:29; 26 Rebecca Thomas (Cowbridge) 12:30; 31 Ana Mirza-Davies (Stanwell) 12:40. Teams: 3 Cardiff & the Vale 129.

Overall points: 1 Dyfed 117; 2 Cardiff & the Vale 111. Congratulations!

Following these championships, Bethan Daw (St Cyres) and Megan Osborne (Llantwit) were selected to represent Welsh Schools against the top under-17 and under-15 girls from England, Scotland and All-Ireland at the Aviva SIAB schools cross-country international to be hosted by English Schools at Truro on Saturday, March 27.

On the same date, Owen Haswell (Stanwell) has been included in the Welsh Schools senior team to compete against the Welsh Athletics under-20 squad as part of the Aviva Home Countries International to be held at Mansfield Nottinghamshire.



Individual silver, team gold and international selection for Megan Osborne (Llantwit).

Wolves show their bite at half-time



DINAS WOLVES played at half-time at the Murch on Saturday.

Dinas Wolves play in the under-8s mini section of the Barry leagues, and currently have five boys training with Cardiff City.

Young Callum Hobbs even made it

into the prep squad which trains on a Friday evening at Treforest.

The boys train twice a week and at present have more than 20 in their squad, fielding four teams on a Saturday morning.

Well done, lads, keep up the hard work.

LS

Golfers win prize tickets in arthritis fundraiser

ARTHRITIS

Research UK (formerly known as the Arthritis Research Campaign or 'arc') celebrated St David's Day by holding its eighth annual ball at the Cardiff City Hall.

SHS Scaffolding of Barry donated for auction two prize tickets for a weekend four ball on the 2010 Ryder Cup course, which raised £800 towards the £6,000 total, that will be used to help the fight against arthritis.

Local golfers, Pryderi Ap Hywel of Penarth and Dennis Maunder of Llandough, who raised the winning bids for the tickets are pictured with Anna-Marie Jones, the regional fundraising officer and an arthritis sufferer herself.

To learn more about



ABOVE:
Pryderi ap Hywel.

the work of Arthritis Research UK, contact regional office on 01446 722957 or a.jones@arthritisresearchuk.org.

RIGHT:
Dennis Maunder receives his prize.



Charity race deadline is approaching

RUNNERS of all abilities are being invited to sign up for this year's LifeStyle

Porthkerry Plod.

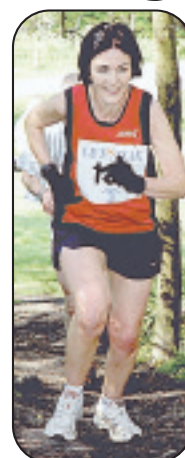
Taking place on Sunday, April 18, the five-mile event takes place in Porthkerry Park in Barry, and challenges runners to tackle fields, hills, roads, woodland and coastal paths. It starts at 10am.

The 'Plod' is sponsored by the Vale Council's LifeStyle health and fitness gyms, based at the leisure centres in Barry, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Penarth, and is organised in association with Penarth and Dinas Runners.

Jonathan Rogers, the Vale Council's LifeStyle operations manager, said: "Now in its fifth year, the Plod has grown in popularity to become a firm fixture on the local sporting calendar. The event has attracted international runners, club members and relative novices who like a challenge."

Potential entrants are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible as the race is limited to 300 runners. Entry is £6 for LifeStyle and affiliated members, or £8 for unaffiliated runners, and the closing date for entries is Friday, April 16. All entrants must be aged 17 or over. Half of the proceeds from the Plod will be donated to a chosen charity at a later date.

There are many ways to enter the 2010 LifeStyle Porthkerry Plod. You can pick up an entry form from the



Now in its fifth year, the LifeStyle Porthkerry Plod has grown in popularity to become a firm fixture on the Vale of Glamorgan sporting calendar.

LifeStyle reception desks in the Vale Council's leisure centres, or download an entry form online at either

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/lifestyle or www.penarthanddinasrunners.org.uk.

For further details about the race, email porthkerryplod@hotmail.co.uk, or call Andrew Palmer on 07879 060270. Penarth and Dinas Runners meet every Monday evening at 7pm at Penarth Leisure Centre during the winter months, and at the Ranger Station in Cosmeston during the summer. New runners are always welcome.

Cowbridge under-9s take on Bath rivals

COWBRIDGE under-9s played host to Bath and produced one of their best performances of the season.

Bath found themselves camped deep on their own line after some outstanding tackling by the home team. With the Cowbridge forwards taking total control in the rucks, the ball finally came back on the Cowbridge side, which saw the ball spread wide for Barny L Cryer to go over for the first try of the game.

From the restart, Cowbridge continued their dominance, driving the away side back into their own half and, after several phases of play, Ioan Williams cut through the Bath back line to score the second try.

Half-time: 2-0. With confidence high, Cowbridge started the second half as they

had finished the first, playing some great flowing rugby with the ball going through several sets of hands for Jack Dixon to finish off by running from the halfway line to go over for the try of the game.

As the game came to the closing stages, the boys kept up the fast pace that they had set and from a turnover by the outstanding Cowbridge forwards, Evan Thomas went snaking through the Bath team to go over for the fourth and last try.

Final score: 4-0.

TIM'S A WINNER!

VALE trainer Tim Vaughan sent out 3-1 chance Chapel Flowers to win the Absolute Marquee Handicap Chase, under jockey Richard Johnson at Ffos Las Racecourse on March 8.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990 CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG DEDDF CYNLLUNIO (ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD CADWRAETH) 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development in Conservation Areas Datblygiad mewn Ardaloedd Cadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2010/00182/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Demolish existing single storey garage and wc and construct new 2 storey side extension to form study, cloak and utility at ground floor and bedroom with en-suite above
Location/Lleoliad: 1, Orchard Lodge, Boverton, Llantwit Major
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Boverton

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2010/00207/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Replace existing roof light turret with flush rooflight, replace existing external steel access/escape staircase to first floor flat and install CCTV security cameras on main building and on isolated garage building
Location/Lleoliad: The Kymin, Beach Road, Penarth
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2010/00212/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed side and rear extensions, including basement excavation and front elevation alterations.
Location/Lleoliad: Bwthyn Castell, West Street, Llantwit Major
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Llantwit Major

Listed Building Consent Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2010/00180/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Remove damaged oak roof structure in west wing of main building. Remove unstable internal stone gable wall down to eaves level (works to reduce gable wall to make safe started 15/02/2010). Rebuild stone gable wall with salvaged stone and build new oak truss roof to match existing with thatch covering
Location/Lleoliad: Bush Inn, St. Hilary
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2010/00209/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Alter window details to rear elevation of house
Location/Lleoliad: Downcross, Turkey Street, Llantwit Major
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Development that might affect the setting of a Listed Building Datblygiad a allai effeithio ar amgylchedd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2009/01346/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Double garage with ancillary offices/studio and replacement/new boundary wall enclosure
Location/Lleoliad: Gatekeepers Lodge, Hayes Point, Hayes Road, Sully
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting former Lodge and screen walls flanking driveway entrance to former Sully Hospital Grade II

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar- vog.planning-register.co.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995 GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF (TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest Ceisiadau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoeddus

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2010/00214/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Mixed use development comprising retail warehousing, garden centre, office development and fast food restaurant with associated car parking, landscaping and access-variation of condition 7 of 91/01282/OUT to allow 1858sqm net of retail floor space to be used for the sale of men's and women's fashion clothing or footwear fashion accessories, jewellery, cosmetics and toiletries pharmaceutical products, within unit B only
Location/Lleoliad: Unit B, Valegate Retail Park, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff

Application(s) which might affect a Public Right of Way Ceisiadau a allai effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2010/00172/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Demolition of existing 2-storey house, and development of two high quality 2-storey semi-detached houses
Location/Lleoliad: Castle Lodge, Castle Green, St. Georges-Super-Ely, Nr. Cardiff

Departure from the Provision of the Development Plan Ceisiadau nad ydynt yn cydymffurfio â Darpariaeth y Cynllun Datblygu

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2010/00172/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Demolition of existing 2-storey house, and development of two high quality 2-storey semi-detached houses
Location/Lleoliad: Castle Lodge, Castle Green, St. Georges-Super-Ely, Nr. Cardiff

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2010/00214/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Mixed use development comprising retail warehousing, garden centre, office development and fast food restaurant with associated car parking, landscaping and access-variation of condition 7 of 91/01282/OUT to allow 1858sqm net of retail floor space to be used for the sale of men's and women's fashion clothing or footwear fashion accessories, jewellery, cosmetics and toiletries pharmaceutical products, within unit B only
Location/Lleoliad: Unit B, Valegate Retail Park, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i vog.planning-register.co.uk

Dated: 18 March, 2010
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 18 Mawrth, 2010
Rob Thomas
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- 05 05 MINI 1.6 Cooper S (Chilli Pack). Black, black leather interior, a/c, alloys, cd, rear parking sensors, only 49,390 miles.....£10,995
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- 54 MG TF 1.8 135 Convertible. In ignition blue with anthracite Sebring interior, alloy wheels, cd player, alarm and immobiliser only 27,100 miles.....£4,995
- 04 04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr Hatchback. In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, cruise control, climate control, alloys, 6 cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles.....£5,995
- 53 LAND ROVER Freelander 1.8 3-dr Hard Top in Bonatti grey with black dune interior, glass roof panel, air con, alarm, traction control system, only 54,460 miles.....£5,495
- 53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-door Convertible. In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles.....£4,495
- 02 02 MG ZS 2.5 180. In anthracite black, with monaco ash interior with red inserts, alloy wheels, a/c, cd, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, alarm and immobiliser, only 52,310 miles.....£2,995
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- 06 06 FORD Focus 1.6 115 Sport 5-dr Hatchback. In Aquarius blue with Humy flint interior, air con, alloy wheels, CD, colour coded bumpers, immobiliser, only 36,600 miles.....£4,495
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- 02 52 NISSAN Almera 1.6 16v 5-Dr Hatchback. In caterpillar green with grey tungsten cloth, cd, a/c, reversing sensors, colour coded bumpers, only 44,300 miles.....£3,995
- 52 AUDI A4 1.9 TDI SE. In denim blue with phoenix blue upholstery, climate control, cd, alloys, only 26,075 miles.....£7,995
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- 02 02 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Coupe Cabriolet S 2-dr in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 64,220 miles.....£5,495
- 02 52 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 3-dr Hatchback in met silver with dark interior, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 48,060 miles.....£4,995
- 02 02 MINI 1.6 One (Salt Pack) 3-Dr Hatchback. In liquid yellow with Kelido grey interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, only 51,325 miles.....£5,995
- 51 MINI 1.6 Cooper (Chilli Pack) 3-Dr Hatchback. In blue with upgraded black leather interior, air con, panoramic roof, CD, alloy wheels, only 51,500 miles.....£5,995
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- 00 X RENAULT Megane 1.4 16v Sport Alize 2-dr Coupe. In Monaco blue with blue interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, immobiliser, only 62,000 miles.....£2,495



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01 51 MINI 1.6 Cooper (Chilli Pack) 3-Dr Hatchback. In blue with upgraded black leather interior, air con, panoramic roof, CD, alloy wheels, only 51,500 miles.....£5,995



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08 58 TOYOTA Yaris 1.0 VVTi T2 5-dr Hatchback. In crystal silver, electric windows and mirrors, CD, multi-function steering wheel, only 3,725 miles.....£7,995



04 04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr Hatchback. In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, cruise control, climate control, alloys, 6 cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles.....£5,995



06 06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with grey interior, alloy wheels, steering wheel mounted audio controls, colour coded bumpers, CD, only 19,860 miles.....£5,995



04 04 FORD Fiesta 1.4 SILVER Limited Edition. In moon dust silver with full midnight black leather, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, cd, only 29,775 miles.....£4,995



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54	RENAULT Megane VVTi Privilege Automatic 5-dr.	Met jade, half leather trim, low mileage ..	REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995
05	PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Quiksilver 3-dr.	31,000 miles, sought-after limited edition model	REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995
06	CHEVROLET Kalos 1.4 Sport 3-dr.	In black, with black leather trim, 37,000 miles	£4,695
04	FORD Fiesta 1.4 Silver 3-Dr.	62,000 miles with full leather trim, A/C, CD etc.	£4,495
53	RENAULT Clio 2.0 Sport 172.	In met black, high specification sports hatch	REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,495
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04 54 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 3dr SXI. Blue metallic, 53k miles, rcl, alloys, ew, pas £3,975
03 03 HONDA Jazz 1.4 Dsi SE Auto, silver met, 66k miles, rcl, ew, cd £4,475
05 54 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 3-dr. Silver, met, 58k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd £4,475
05 54 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Finesse 3-dr. Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd £4,475
05 05 HYUNDAI Sonata 2.4 Auto Saloon, 4-dr. Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, ew, cd, cruise, full leather £4,975
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07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus 5-dr, grey met, 39k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd £5,775
06 06 VAUXHALL Agila 1.2 16v Enjoy 5dr. Met purple, 12k miles rcl, pas, ew, cd £5,975
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07 07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Life (a/c) 3-dr, grey met, 26k miles, rcl, pas, cd, ew £6,475
07 07 CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire 5-dr. Met black, cd, a/c, pas, 12k miles £6,975
07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 Dynamique 3-dr hatch. Silver met, 24k miles, a/c, rcl, ew, pas, alloys £6,975
09 09 CITROEN 1.0 VTR 3-dr. Met black, 8k miles, rcl, pas, cw, cd £7,475

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07 07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Dynamic 5dr. Met blue, e windows, rcl, 5k miles £6,975
07 07 FORD Mondeo TURBO DIESEL 2.0 TDCI 1x 5-dr. Black met, 34k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd £7,475
07 07 PEUGEOT 307 Hdi 90SE TURBO DIESEL. Green/grey met, 38k miles, alloys, rcl, ew, cd, a/c £7,975

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02 52 BMW 325ci Sport AUTO Coupe. Blue met, 72k miles, sand leather, alloys, a/c, rcl, cd £7,975
05 55 MINI One in met silver, alloys, cd, air con, 16k miles £8,475
04 04 CHRYSLER Crossfire 3.2 V6 Coupe. Grey met, 21k miles, leather, NAV, cruise, heated seats £8,975
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06 56 BMW 335D AUTO 2dr Coupe Turbo Diesel. Grey met, 28k miles, full leather, cd, ew, a/c, stunning car £19,975

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01 51 SUZUKI Jimmy 1.3 J1X 4x4. Black met, 66k miles, alloys, cd, cl, e/w £3,475
04 04 DAEWOO Tacuma 1.6 Extra MPV. Silver met, 22k miles, rcl, ew, pas, roof rails £3,475
04 04 HYUNDAI Matrix 1.8 CDX MPV. Silver met, full leather, rcl, ew, cd £3,975
04 04 FORD Galaxy 2.4 AUTO Ghia MPV. Met silver, 90k miles, rcl, a/c, alloys, cd, cruise £5,975
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06 06 RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.6 Dynamique. Red met, only 4,500 miles!
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58 09 FORD Fusion 1.4 5dr Style AUTO. Red met, only 1,000 miles!
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06 56 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Dynamique AUTO. Gold met, only 2,700 miles
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06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.6 Style Climate AUTO. Blue met, only 3,700 miles
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06 56 FORD C-Max 2.0 Zetec AUTO MPV. Blue met, only 4,500 miles
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06 56 FORD Focus 1.6 Sport 5dr. Blue met, only 5,600 miles
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GEM sport

After team again fails to perform...

Dilemma for the coach as Wales face prospect of Wooden Spoon

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

"It was very disappointing. Ireland played very well, but while they were very clinical, we lacked cohesion..."

THAT was the after-match comment of the Wales head coach after a dismal Dublin showing – not Warren Gatland, though, but fellow Kiwi Graham Henry, speaking in 2002 after the record-breaking 54-10 Welsh defeat at Irish hands.

Eight years on, it might be argued that in essence not a great deal has changed: compare the quote above with Gatland's own candid response after misfiring Wales were almost casually elbowed aside by Triple Crown-chasing Ireland in the 27-12 loss at Croke Park on Saturday – which repeated the now familiar Welsh shortcomings in execution and discipline during the Six Nations:

"We are very disappointed. Ireland were very good and clinical and took their chances well. We again made too many mistakes..."

In both cases, the underlying message across the years was the same, with the New Zealanders just two in a long line of Wales coaches who, despite occasional triumphs, thus far have sadly failed to achieve the kind of long-term consistency that was once taken for granted by supporters weaned on near-unbroken success during the golden years of Welsh rugby.

For Henry, the under-pressure 'Great Redeemer', who had initially led Wales on an undefeated run of 10 games, but had since allegedly 'lost the dressing room', the scale of defeat in Ireland was the final straw.

As press speculation mounted over his future, he suddenly handed over to number two Steve Hansen and departed for the land of the long white cloud, saying he could not take the Welsh team any further forward.

Now it's the turn of the third New Zealander, Gatland, to be the focus of intense speculation, with murmurs that history may be repeated in light of the Welsh



Sin-binned Lee Byrne keeps his place against Italy.

team's continuing under-performance, in the autumn internationals and the Six Nations – all a far cry from the heady days of the 2008 Grand Slam that marked the former All Black's dramatic arrival on the scene.

One hopes that this is not so, as yet another change of Welsh head coach in the countdown to a World Cup would surely put paid to any chance of success in the tournament.

However, with opponents now seemingly able to breach the Welsh defence at will; with question marks over both the set piece and loose play; and with the Welsh attack flawed rather than flowing, the embattled squad now have just one match left, against Italy, in which to find a solution to failings that have resulted in three largely self-inflicted defeats (*that could so easily have been four*) in this Six Nations campaign.

More worryingly, with the Rugby World Cup looming larger by the day, the absence of half a dozen first choice players, which has undoubtedly affected Wales' performances, yet again confirms our lack of quality strength-in-depth when compared to France and the southern hemisphere giants, who have no such problems and are able to cast their nets wide, as they build towards the 2011 tournament.

In this context, the continuing challenge for Gatland and his assistant coaches is to hone a richly talented but small pool of players into a cohesive and competitive force, able to finally produce

a clinical, error-free and disciplined performance to world standard for 80 minutes – something that at the moment really seems beyond them.

After their courageous showing against title-chasing France on Sunday, including running in two excellent tries, Italy will come to the Millennium Stadium believing that they can record their second shock win in the Six Nations in a desperate struggle with Wales to avoid the humiliating Wooden Spoon.

Hence the more than usual interest this week in the team Gatland has selected for the task.

With one eye on the short term and the other on more crucial long-term planning for the World Cup, was his patience finally exhausted with frustrating players who have continually failed to perform, and, despite numerous warnings, persist in foolish acts of indiscipline that have cost the team dear?

Would he risk a fourth defeat by throwing caution to the wind against the Italians, in order to give others waiting in the wings an opportunity to show what they can do?

The answer came with the announcement of the team on Tuesday and Gatland continued his penchant for surprises by introducing 18-year-old debutant Osprey wing Tom Prydie as Wales' youngest ever international 'cap'.

He has also wielded the axe over Martyn Williams and Richie Rees in favour of Sam Warburton and Mike Phillips; while the equally unfortunate Gareth Delve and Paul James predictably make way for Ryan Jones and Gethin Jenkins, as the coach rings the changes to arrest the worrying decline.

WALE'S TEAM:

Lee Byrne; Tom Prydie, James Hook, Jamie Roberts, Shane Williams; Stephen Jones, Michael Phillips; Gethin Jenkins, Matthew Rees, Adam Jones, Bradley Davies, Luke Charteris, Jonathan Thomas, Sam Warburton, Ryan Jones (captain).

Replacements: Huw Bennett, Paul James, Ian Gough, Gareth Delve, Dwayne Peel, Andrew Bishop, Tom Shanklin.

Romans' wall is not strong enough to contain the Dragons

RESULTS in recent matches have shown The Dragons seem to have rediscovered their fine early season form.

Against league leaders Goytre in midweek, they were by far the better footballing side and, but for a fine performance by the home 'keeper, an even better score than the eventual 1-1 would have been forthcoming (see match report on page 32).

Travelling to the old Roman town of Caerleon should have held no fears for manager Gavin Chesterfield and his team.

A couple of changes were made by the manager, with Lewis James coming in at full-back and Ian Jones starting up front.

Caerleon are currently bottom of the league and are fighting to keep their Division One status next season, so they defended stoutly on a pitch which was certainly not conducive to any real flowing football.

Barry Town, although superior in their skills, struggled to breach the defence, with shots being cleared off the line and some brilliant saves from the home 'keeper.

Against the run of play, however, it was the Romans who took the lead with a well-taken

CAERLEON BARRY TOWN

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goal, a home player swivelling and hitting a fine shot beyond the sprawling Dan Bradley at his near post in the Barry goal.

The second half showed the home fans what they were up against.

In the 47th minute, The Dragons scored their deserved equaliser. James Simpson floated a fine free kick in from wide right of the box and it was met by Ian Jones, who headed a fine goal at the far post.

Jones was playing his first full game for some months and showed the fans what they had been

missing in his absence.

The home side were still putting up the shutters with some fine defensive performances and solely relying on the pace of their front runners like Luke Cueto.

With defenders Atif Bashir, Lewis James, Dan Clare and the immensely experienced and capable Damon Searle also playing well, midfielders James Simpson, Nickie Jones and Sam Hartrey were industrious and coped well in controlling the game.

The winner came in the 56th minute when Nickie Jones played a

square ball to fellow midfielder Sam Hartrey who, from 20 yards, hit a shot of such ferocity that it hit the back of the net before the home 'keeper moved.

As in many games this season, The Dragons were the better side but so often the right result has not been forthcoming. On this occasion though, it did with Barry deserving the win, although to the Romans' credit, they never stopped trying.

Next game: Friday, March 19 – Ely Rangers Home – (kick-off 7.45pm).

Monday, March 22 – Taffs Well – Away – (kick-off 7.15pm).

DC

Barry Wanderers put on pool 'social night'

THE inaugural Barry Wanderers pool tournament took place recently, with 32 players in an enjoyable pre-season social night.

With a trophy and £20 for the winner, there was some serious shooting to be done, and compere for the evening Mark Ellis grabbed the mike and got the boys on the baize. Grant Cole kicked off the competition at 7.15pm and was duly knocked out by 7.20pm!

The buffet provided by the hosts of the Sully Inn pub was excellent, and a special thanks to tea ladies Sian Sealey and Diane Gist, who sold more than £75 worth of raffle tickets.

The semi-finals were close affairs, but in the end the final came down to Andrew Ferguson and Brendan O'Donovan, and Andrew was victorious, picking up the trophy and £20 which he kindly donated back to the club.

The club requires a working party on Sundays from now until the beginning of the season to get the ground ready for first game on Saturday, April 10 which is an interclub game (Possibles v Probables).

If you would like more information on helping with the ground or joining Barry Wanderers as a player please contact Gareth Lanagan on <http://www.barrywandererscc.co.uk/>

Dinas denied an impressive win by late Lido equaliser

DESPITE having one or two regulars unavailable, Dinas Powys came within five minutes of registering their third straight win against opposition from the top end of the table.

The game started evenly, but it was the visitors who had the first chance, Nathan White connecting with a cross from the left, but his effort was off target.

Lido also had three early corners but the Dinas centre-back pairing of Tony Roberts and Lloyd Davies were in fine form and cleared the danger.

The game was quite physical at times and the hosts' Jacob Rudman needed treatment after one robust tackle.

Recent signing Barry Pappin was making some good runs down

the left and on one occasion threaded a fine through ball into the path of Dunford, but the Lido defence just got to the ball first.

It was White again on 20 minutes who latched onto a long clearance from keeper Michael Lewis, but again he was off target.

Dinas began to assert some pressure and on two occasions Paul Carro used his pace to put in good crosses, one of which Mark Dunford headed just over the bar.

Dinas finally got the breakthrough with four minutes of the half remaining.

This time it was Pappin who beat his marker to put in a fine cross from the left for Dunford to head home for the opener, leaving Michael Lewis rooted to the spot.

The half-time entertainment this week was provided by Dinas Wolves under-8s with a

Welsh League Division One

DINAS POWYS
AFAN LIDO

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five-a-side match.

The visitors introduced prolific striker Robbie Walters at the start of the second half and they began to get the upper hand with a succession of corners, but the Dinas defence cleared time after time.

Peter Blaine also had a powerful 30-yard free kick from Scott McCoubrey to deal with but he gathered it comfortably.

Lido were getting frustrated and after a bad foul on Rudman, White was shown the yellow card, as was defender Damon Thomas – for getting involved.

Dinas manager Danny Kinsey then rang the changes, bringing on Karl Steel for Paul

Carro and Steve Provis for Dunford.

Further knocks were incurred by Lloyd Davies and Rhodri Foote, but they both soldiered on and just as it looked as though Dinas would hang on to all three points, Nathan White drove a loose ball into the corner of the net from 16 yards to grab a share.

Dinas saw out the remaining minutes and were probably more pleased with the result than their opponents.

Next game for Dinas is on Friday, March 19 at Bryntirion, 7.30pm kick-off.

Further information can be found on the web site at www.dinaspowys-fc.co.uk.